

Disability Now

In a paddy? See p. 7



Princess Anne at Churchtown Farm

"So many other establishments don't present themselves as well as you do and don't put in as much thought," said HRH Princess Anne as she took in the new horticultural therapy gardens at Churchtown Farm.

She spent an afternoon at the Society's Field Studies Centre in Cornwall last month.

After meeting many people connected with Churchtown, including Mrs Mary Varcoe, president of The Friends and widow of Philip Varcoe, who donated the site, the Princess was taken on a tour by Martyn Overton, the principal, and Mrs Joyce Smith.

The Centre runs education courses and adventure holidays for people with special needs and, since it had its full complement of 56 visitors, the Princess was able to see adults and children involved in all sorts of activities – collecting fungi for an "O" level Biology course, caring for animals, climbing a 20ft simulated rock face, looking at pond life under the microscope.

She was quite taken by Samantha, the North American corn snake, which likes to wrap itself round wheelchairs. Having seen another a few days earlier she was ready to stroke it – which could not be said of her lady-in-waiting or her security officer.

The Princess saw mentally-handicapped children canoeing in the indoor pool. "She compared this to Riding for the Disabled and realised the sense of freedom and independence it can give," said Martyn Overton.

"I think she really enjoyed herself," he added. "She knew what she was talking about in terms of individual disabilities and the work we are doing."

"Princess Anne is a super person," said Mrs Smith. "You know, she went without lunch to be with us on time. At tea, she had her eye on the cheese straws. The detective put some in his pocket. When they left, I knocked on the window of the land-rover and told him not to crush them! It was a fun day."



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Above: In the greenhouse, Princess Anne met horticultural tutor, Peter Macfadyen, and visitors from the Green Banks Rest Home at Teignmouth, Devon who were extracting seeds to plant next year.

Below: The spirit of the day – a laughing Princess Anne with Mrs Joyce Smith and Martyn Overton. The Princess received many home made bouquets from children in Lanlivery.

Below left: Samantha gets into the limelight, held by Chris Yates.

Bernard White



Revelations of pioneer study

When it comes to getting jobs and keeping them, disabled women suffer double discrimination – on account of their disability and their sex. They face hurdles like inflexible working arrangements, lack of child-care facilities and inappropriate rehabilitation courses.

These are the findings of a new study – the first of its kind – into the employment needs of women with disabilities.

More Equal Than Some is written by Deborah Perry of the Lady Margaret Hall Settlement in London and funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission and the King's Fund.

It is based on the experiences of 40 women living in Lambeth, most with physical disabilities and a few with mental handicaps. It reveals how they get and hold jobs; how far existing services meet their needs and what more

employers could do to help.

The study shows that disabled women have skills, experience and needs that are different from disabled men. For example, coping with a disability and often with children too means that they are looking for jobs which are part-time, have shorter or flexible hours and child care facilities.

Not only are these arrangements lacking in most jobs, but even the local rehabilitation centre at Croydon is not geared to women. The courses are often inappropriate and have a fixed completion time; there is a lack of women instructors; and hours and facilities are unhelpful.

All round, the expectation seems to be that women, and disabled women in particular, will not get jobs.

Continued on page 15

Government must ban tobacco advertising

Pressure is building up on the government to take a definite stand against advertising and sports sponsorship by tobacco firms. The present voluntary agreements, described as "a sick joke", are due to run out next year.

Last month the British Medical Association launched a major campaign.

Not only does it want advertising and sponsorship banned, but it wants the present health warning on cigarette packs replaced with "These cigarettes can kill." (It has been estimated that smoking causes 100,000 premature deaths each year.)

The BMA has written to Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, asking him to introduce the necessary legislation. If he declines to do so, it will sponsor a private member's bill.

The BMA is enlisting the support of doctors, asking them to inform their MP every time a patient dies from a smoking-related disease.

It is approaching the police to help prevent the sale of cigarettes to children, the BBC and IBA to reconsider televising tobacco sponsored sports, and the editors of women's magazines.

Immediate support for the campaign has come from The Spastics Society.

For many years the Society has been concerned about the connection between smoking in

pregnancy and handicap.

A new statement released last month said:

"It has long been known that mothers who smoke heavily during pregnancy give birth to smaller babies. It is thought that nicotine narrows the blood vessels in the placenta starving the baby of the blood supply which is essential to proper development. Babies born to heavy smokers tend to weigh less at birth than those born to non-smokers, and smaller babies are at greater risk of death and handicap."

In view of this, and the fact that the general decline in smoking has not been mirrored among women aged 20-24, the Society again calls for a health warning.

"It is a scandal that the tobacco industry has in the past stated that it was 'not prepared to include a health warning on the adverse effects of smoking'."

The Society is supported by the House of Commons Social Services Committee. In its Third Report on Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality, published in July this year, the Committee again urged the government that a specific warning to pregnant women should be put on all cigarette packs.

"The Spastics Society now calls on the government to heed this advice and to review the totally ineffective voluntary agreement between government departments and the tobacco industry."

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

ALACs and "the cartoon"

I have been meaning to write to you for sometime.

Your September *Disability Now* was so full of news about the disabled that I could not resist backing up what was in it.

Regarding ALAC wheelchairs, yes, they definitely need to be improved and I am sure nearly all of us wish they were electric because what strength you have left (if any) is used up pushing or pulling yourself anywhere in it.

I was very interested about the part you put in about artificial limbs. I have waited nearly 4 years to get a good comfortable fit, but none so far.

When I had my amputation I was told not to worry as I would be fitted with a limb exactly like my real one and I would be able to wear tights and all my dresses nicely without anyone knowing. Well, I have never worn tights or dresses since. I have never been comfortable for long in any one leg I have had made. They are so heavy too, all harness and straps. It's a wonder I have got a shoulder and neck left.

Your cartoon on the front page was the best yet. I laughed, and the Council workmen who are building a shelter for my second-hand Batricar 3-wheeler laughed and so did some friends who called. Honestly it is so good; I'd love to frame it.

Mrs J.A. Kellow
39 Bingham Road
Bishopdown Estate
Salisbury, Wilts.

Disability Now is difficult to read

Reading your article in the October *Disability Now* (page 2). I agree with almost everything

that you have said.

However I would like to clarify what I said when I spoke to the South East Regional Staff Meeting here in July.

I am speaking on behalf of all severely disabled people who have average or slightly below average intelligence.

Reading can be a difficult thing to do when your head control is poor and your arms are likely to knock everything off the table.

Trying to read a newspaper is an even more difficult problem. Yes, you can buy or make stands to hold a book; you can also have page turners, at a price.

However, putting newspapers on stands does not work very well because it is necessary to move the paper from time to time in order to read one article. The print is difficult to focus on and when one tries to turn a page with an unsteady hand newspapers are liable to fall apart.

Because of all these difficulties I do not read newspapers at all and only read the one article in *Disability Now*.

I fully realise that you are working to a limited budget and therefore it is better to have *Disability Now* in its present form than have nothing at all. But I do not feel that those disabled people who have great difficulty in reading will get anything from the majority of articles in your paper.

I cannot see any easy solution to this problem, unless it is possible to put some news for disabled people on tape and circulate it to centres and individual groups.

Carol Lloyd (Mrs)
Princess Marina Centre
Seer Green, Bucks

Thank you for drawing our attention to the difficulties you and others have in reading the newspaper. We are looking at the possibility of putting part of the newspaper on tape — Editor.

A disappointing Christmas catalogue

My committee has asked me to write to you indicating their disappointment with the 1984 Christmas Catalogue, particularly bearing in mind the quality and size of other catalogues we have seen issued by charities with whom, obviously, we are in competition.

It is particularly disappointing comparing our catalogue with the 100 page issue by Webb Ivory.

Also, we think it would be nice if some of the cards could be designed by disabled people as we know that so many of them have artistic talent.

I shall be pleased to have your comments, and possibly you will bear this in mind when compiling the next issue.

Bobby Cartwright (Mrs)
Secretary/Organiser
Preston & District Spastics' Group

It is always good to receive comments from local groups about our mail order catalogue — even if, as in this case, some may be unfavourable. The format of the catalogue is slightly smaller this year in order to keep down the costs of a much larger distribution. In fact it has been well received. Sales to the week ending 12 October were nearly double the total reached at the same point last year.

I appreciate your point about producing some Christmas cards designed by disabled people. Our Mail Order Manager, Mrs Maura Taylor, has already selected some designs by disabled artists for next year.

However, to produce and sell cards at a reasonable cost it is necessary to print in very large volumes, and in the past we have found that cards designed by disabled people have not sold so well —

Andrew Ross,
Director of Marketing.

THE DIRECTOR An ambitious programme

The last time I wrote this column (in July), I told you that the Think Tank had completed the audit of the Society's activities. The final papers will be taken by the Executive Council this month and I will then have policy guidelines and the priorities that I need.

The Directors then looked at financial planning and in particular the projected growth and expenditure over the next three years, which clearly would give us a shortfall in our reserves by 1986/87. We undertook a detailed review to revise our 1984/85 and 1985/86 budgets to break even in 1986/87.

This exercise has been completed and the results have been approved by the Executive Council. It has been achieved at the expense of expansion but not with any cutbacks in our present activities or staff.

You will remember that in January I produced 1984/85 objectives for the Society, which have been circulated to all Groups. These have been audited by your management team on a regular basis and I am pleased to say that we are on target with most of them.

The aim of these objectives is to provide the management of the Society with a basis both for cooperative working planning within and between divisions and for monitoring progress against agreed aims.

An equally important aim of these objectives is to provide a means of communication between central staff and regional staff so that the main objectives can be cascaded down to unit level.

Finally, I hope they provide a basis for more understanding with the local groups.

1985/86 objectives have just been written but not yet ratified by the Council. Every Group will receive a copy and I hope they will be available at the Annual General Meeting. The Directors will discuss them at the meeting.

Meanwhile, I offer you my own objectives.

1. To prepare a corporate long term plan for the Society, which will provide working guidelines for the financial and operational management of the Society. I hope to achieve this by November 1985.

2. To set up a working party to make recommendations on any under-used Society property.

3. To initiate a review of the space and location needs of the



headquarters of the Society, including Fitzroy Square, and develop a strategy for meeting these needs in the future.

4. To foster further the role of volunteers in the activities of the Society and to encourage the growth of local groups.

5. To look at ways in which the society can help develop the employment of cerebral palsied persons.

6. To review the role of the Society in the development of and dissemination of information about aids and equipment.

7. To examine the overall needs of the Society for insurance cover and to propose a strategy for the future.

8. To foster closer cooperation with the Society's learned advisory committees placing particular emphasis on research.

9. To develop a programme to "inform the informers" — MPs, TV, newspapers and influential bodies — of the work of the Society and the needs of disabled people.

10. To build a closer relationship with central government and the EEC and to involve each MP and MEP within his/her constituency.

11. To assess the implications to the Society of the new Code of Practice for residential accommodation.

12. To develop a strategy for tackling problems associated with the ageing of parents of cerebral palsied children.

13. To develop closer links with other voluntary organisations so as to minimise duplication of effort in areas of joint interest.

This is a lot to digest, but it is a vital preamble to easing the Society into the '90s. As you will realise when you see the detailed objectives for these coming years, they are essentially evolutionary not revolutionary.

If I had to paraphrase them all, I think I would say: "more service, more investigation, more business efficiency to give us more money at the sharp end".

We will need a lot of help and understanding to get through this ambitious programme.

John

Here are some to get us started.

★ ★ ★
A Miracle for the Crippled
Title of an article in New Society, 11 October

★ ★ ★
Cerebral palsy is a disorder of control. It isn't visible at birth. But within 4 or 5 years the child becomes a twisted heap of limbs...

Same article

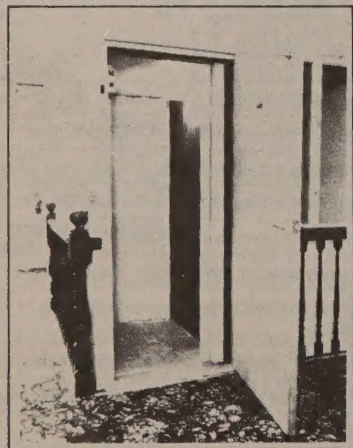
★ ★ ★
The Grange branch of Cumbria Spastics Society celebrated 25 years of helping the helpless...
Westmorland Gazette, 17 September

Send your contributions (not forgetting the source and your name) to Watch It! Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

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DISCRIMINATION — ANOTHER HANDICAP! Should it be against the law?

Party Conference fringe meetings

Conservatives — yes and no

"The Conservative Party has to do something. It cannot continue to block all attempts at introducing anti-discrimination legislation."

John Hannam, Conservative MP for Exeter, was speaking at The Spastics Society's Fringe Meeting at the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton on 11 October. It was chaired by Ron Gerver.

"There are enough examples of discrimination to ensure that there is a strong case for legislation," said John Hannam.

But he was not certain that the formula proposed by Bob Wareing last November was the right one.

"It is my hope that a select committee will be appointed to look into the whole question of legislation and to report to the Commons on action required," he said.

"Bob Wareing's bill gave legislation a bad name because it was a bad bill," argued Tim Yeo, MP, and ex-Director of the Society.

"A fresh attempt is needed, coupled with the longer term education work of organisations such as The Spastics Society."

Peter Large, Chairman of CORAD, thought that more urgent action was needed.

"Disabled people have no redress in law against discrimination," he said. "There is no attempt to establish acceptable behaviour in society towards disabled people. There is discrimination on a wide scale and we

need legislation to eradicate it."

Despite the forcefulness of the arguments for legislation, Tony Newton MP, Minister for the Disabled, remained unmoved.

"In my opinion, the case has not yet been made for legislation to be enacted," he said.

In the first instance, the Government did not feel that there was sufficient evidence to warrant action.

"During the past year, only 25 cases have been forwarded to my office," he said. "Of these, very few could have been helped by the proposed legislation. The numbers just are not there."

"There is also the difficulty of definition," he said. "What do we mean by disabled? What do we mean by discrimination? The whole area is a lawyer's paradise."

"The proposed legislation would not be a sensible use of resources," the Minister argued.

All things considered, the Minister's statement offered little encouragement for those, even in his own party, who seek some legislative measures to combat discrimination.

Although he did not have a closed mind, said Tony Newton, it was a question of whether legislation could make a contribution to ending discrimination. In his view at the moment it could not.

A lot of work needs to be done if the Minister is to be presented with enough evidence and argument to make legislation possible during the lifetime of this Government.

David Hanson
Lobbyist



Gerald Kaufman with, from left to right, Bob Wareing, John Tizard, Alf Morris and Jack Ashley.

Labour — you bet!

"I shall do all in my power to ensure that a bill on anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people is not only included as part of Labour's next manifesto but is enacted by the next Labour Government."

With that firm commitment, Gerald Kaufman, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, set the tone for The Spastics Society's Fringe Meeting at the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool on 2 October.

It was chaired by the Society's principal research officer, John Tizard.

Mr Kaufman urged voluntary organisations and individuals to maintain the pressure on Government and MPs to take action.

"Discrimination exists," he insisted. "It is up to all of us to continue to make the case and to work to end these injustices."

Bob Wareing, MP for Liverpool, West Derby, who attempted to bring in legislation last November, outlined the reaction to his Bill.

"It was clear from the start that the Government were not keen on the idea of legislation," he

said. "The Government killed my Bill. It would have been easier to climb Everest in a wheelchair."

Jack Ashley MP, spoke of Bob Wareing's Bill and his own attempt in 1982 to convince the House of Commons of the need for legislation.

"There is an overwhelming case for some form of legislation," he said.

He paid tribute to the work done by the Committee on Restrictions Against Disabled People (CORAD) under Alf Morris and Peter Large.

"The CORAD Committee has laid the foundations for laws to be made to give disabled people an equal and fair deal," he said. "It is up to politicians to take that opportunity and to utilize it."

In response to a question from John Cox, the Director, Alf Morris suggested a plan of action for the campaign next year.

"Write to your local MP and tell him or her about examples of discrimination. Work with local political activists to get disability back on the agenda," he said.

"It's up to all of us, especially those who experience discrimination, to inform those who make decisions that action is needed."

It was a message that the 40 or so people attending the meeting will take to heart.

David Hanson

★ Later in the evening, Alf Morris introduced John Cox to Jack Eccles, chairman of the TUC.

"He made a tremendous impression on me," said John Cox later. He was open for discussion about trade union participation in disability issues and the Society holding a fringe meeting near the 1985 TUC conference.

They plan to meet again.

Mrs Smith's sherry party



Among the guests on Wednesday night were Chris Davies, Publicity Projects Officer at the Society, Tim Yeo, MP and ex-Director of the Society, and Tony Newton (right), now Minister of State for Social Security at the DHSS and Minister for the Disabled. Below: Mrs Smith with the Director, John Cox (left), Freddie Green, Director of Education, and Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North (right).

Peter O'Byrne



Charity law needs overhaul

A radical overhaul of charity law is needed, announced a Lords Select Committee last month. Chaired by Lord Brightman, it has been investigating charities for 12 months.

It has found that small localised charities, often founded in the last century to help the poor, are the most guilty of inefficient administration and lack of public accountability.

Lack of interest in investments has allowed once substantial endowments and income to become "almost inconsequential" — more than half are estimated to have an annual income of less than £100. Few fulfil the legal obligation to prepare and submit regular accounts to the Charity Commissioners.

The Committee recommends legislation to tighten up accountability and to allow small charities with low growth income to amalgamate.

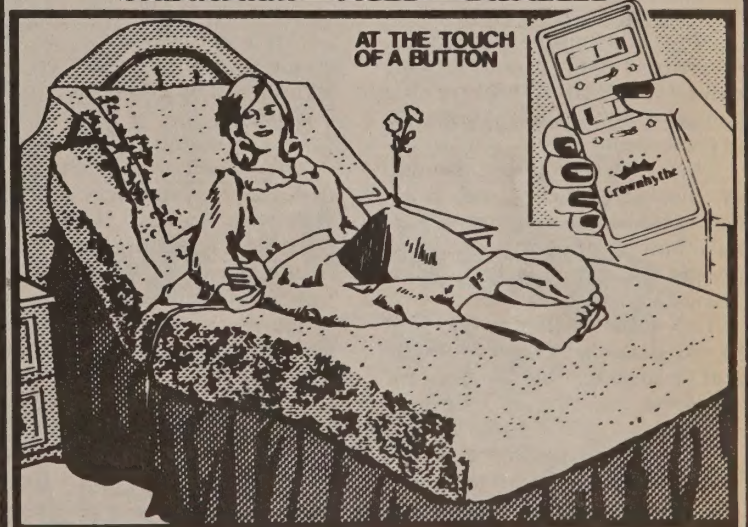
"The Committee's findings support the arguments put by the Charities VAT Reform Group to the Treasury," says Sharron Saint Michael of the Lobby Department.

"The CVRG has always maintained that the number of potential claimants for VAT relief was unrealistically high because so many charities are effectively obsolete. Granting VAT relief would not be such a massive undertaking as the Treasury makes out."

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REPORTS

IDC'S Consultative Conference

The challenge we can't avoid

"Next steps in day services for people with mental handicap" was the main subject of discussion at the Annual Consultative Conference of the Independent Development Council for people with mental handicap, held at Castle Priory College on 25 September.

The document is still at the consultative stage, but IDC plans to publish it as a pamphlet in the New Year to influence planners in local authorities.

This year's conference was attended by some 40 members of the Council and representatives of its associated members.

The ability to bring together such a wide range of people concerned with planning and delivering services for people with mental handicap is one of the strengths of IDC. It is jointly sponsored by MENCAP, MIND, Dr Barnardo's Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People and the Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped.

IDC believes that services should:

1. affirm and enhance the dignity, self-respect and individuality of mentally handicapped people who are people first and mentally handicapped second.
2. enable people with mental handicap to share in and contribute to community life.
3. assist people with mental handicap to lead as normal a life as possible and where necessary provide extra help.

In the light of these fundamental beliefs, the conference discussed the role and future of Adult Training Centres in providing employment opportunities for mentally handicapped people; leisure services, and further education facilities.

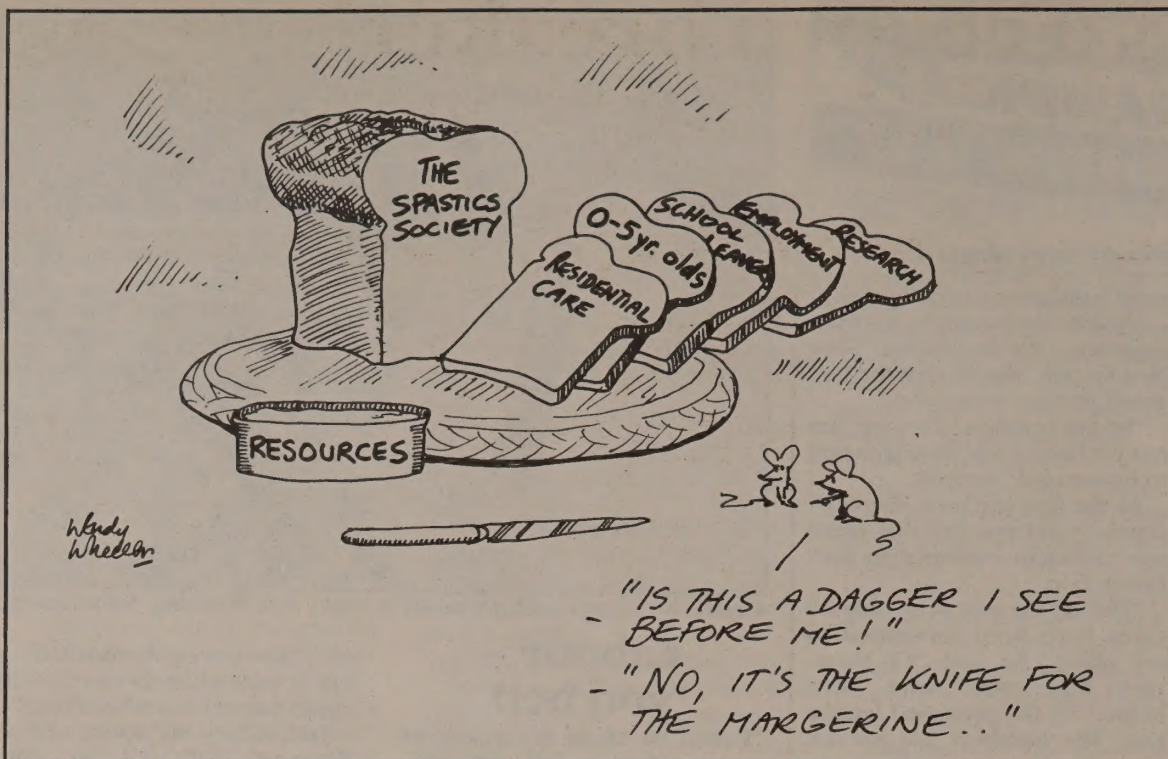
The consensus was that, wherever possible, people with mental handicap should receive day services in the mainstream of the community.

There are difficulties, though, in translating theory into practice, especially for severely mentally and multiply-handicapped people. Furthermore, large scale resources will be needed.

This is the challenge for all of us involved in service delivery and planning. It is not for avoiding.

John Tizard

Principal Research and Development Officer



"IS THIS A DAGGER I SEE - BEFORE ME!"

- "NO, IT'S THE KNIFE FOR THE MARGERINE..."

East Regional Conference

A matter of bread and marge

"Getting it right - the future" was the theme of this year's conference held at Meldreth Manor School on 22 September.

The problem, said John Cox, the Director, is that The Spastics Society's resources are severely limited. They could be seen as a tub of margarine to be spread on many slices of bread.

He labelled some of the more important slices of the loaf: research; education and treatment of the under-5s; provision for school leavers; employment, and care of the older cp person whose parents are growing elderly and unable to cope at home.

Planning for the future was a matter of assigning priorities to the slices, he said. We are unlikely to get any more margarine in the foreseeable future. At the moment, some of the slices are spread so thinly that the margarine on them is scarcely visible.

One way to conserve our margarine supply, he suggested, is to avoid spreading it on slices of the loaf which are, or ought to be, spread by statutory agencies.

This theme was taken up by the other two speakers, John Belcher, the Society's Director of Social Services and Simon Whitehead, Assistant Director of Suffolk Social Services.

There seemed widespread agreement that a major priority over the next decade must be the care of older cp people.

During the afternoon we were divided into study groups and asked to discuss topics from a

list: barriers to care in the community; 12-15 year old group - what provisions?; early diagnosis and educational treatment of young babies - what importance?; and the profoundly handicapped child and adult - what should we be doing?

Comments and questions were then brought to the Any Questions panel. This was an opportunity for us to air our views in the company of sympathetic hearers.

So lively were the discussions that our chairman, Lord Walston, was unable to reach more than three of the study groups.

The final decision on how to spread the margarine must rest with the Executive Council. But occasions such as the Regional Conference give all of us a chance to have our say, and above all to be reminded that we are not alone.

If you are a parent living in the East Region and you were not there, then you don't know which side your bread is buttered!

Pam Harris

Watford and District Spastics Society

Joint Social Services

Annual Conference

An unwelcome shift of emphasis

"The challenge of present day needs" was the subject for this year's Joint Social Services Annual Conference held at Buxton, Derbyshire, 26-28 September.

The conference is organised jointly by the Association of County Councils, the Association of Metropolitan County Councils and the Association of Directors of Social Services.

Norman Fowler, MP, Secretary of State for Social Services, gave a controversial speech in which he announced a review of social services departments to see if more use could be made of private and voluntary organisations. A consultation paper is to be published shortly.

Mr Fowler's avowed aim is to switch the emphasis of social services departments from providing services to co-ordinating those provided by private and voluntary agencies. He called on social workers to consider "value for money" and "cost effectiveness" as part of the professional ethics.

His speech received a mixed reception.

Labour councillors accused him of distracting attention from "huge cuts" which will be brought about by Government policies such as rate capping and grant penalties.

Professional social workers were concerned at the threat to independent professional judgement implied in this approach.

Representatives of major voluntary organisations involved in social service provision were concerned lest their services are regarded as a cheap option or they will be expected to provide services on a large scale.

Earlier, the conference had heard Harriet Harman, MP, Labour's shadow social services spokesperson, express concern about the effects of Government financial cutbacks, the failure - as she saw it - of any real care in the community initiatives, and the growth in private residential homes.

The last point was taken up by Lady Avebury, chairman of the committee that produced *Home Life: a code of practice for residential care*.

She said that the Government had seemed genuinely concerned about the standards in private and voluntary homes when the code was commissioned. But since its publication, the Government's strict control on local authority manpower has meant that social services departments who wished to employ registration and inspection officers have been unable to.

Professor Ron Baker of the London School of Economics raised the human costs of providing social services - the wear and tear on staff at all levels. One sensed that the audience recognised symptoms either in themselves or in colleagues. Professor Baker was rather short on solutions.

However, the conference did endorse one plan for improving the situation put forward by two social services directors: a job creation programme which would help the unemployed and fill vacancies among care staff in homes for old and mentally handicapped people. Norman Fowler is to be asked to transfer unemployment payments to local authorities to help pay the wages.

Apart from this, things looked pretty depressing. The new director of ADSS, Adrienne Jones, Director of Social Services for the London Borough of Hillingdon, identified the challenge facing social services, and with these firmly in sight the delegates left Buxton.

John Tizard

SE Regional Conference

Common concerns, but what of consumer opinion?

A Shift of Emphasis, the title of the Society's latest film, was the theme of the South East Regional Conference held at White Lodge Centre on 23 September. The outgoing Regional Chairman, Derek Ashcroft, mentioned the changing needs and issues in his report, and so did the new Chairman, David Hendon, in his welcoming speech.

Their example was followed by the guest speakers: Bill Hargreaves, a member of the Executive Council; John Cox, the Director; John Belcher, Director of Social Services; Ann Hithersay, Director of Regions; and Louis Goldberg, a member of the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society.

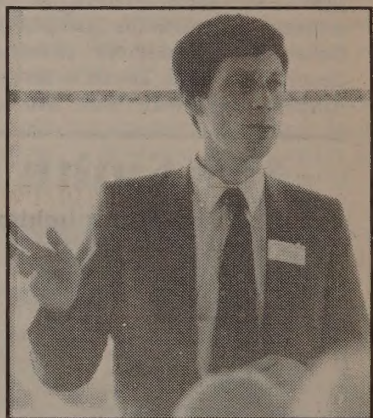
A vast range of issues emerged. It was obvious that there was enough material for a week's solid work rather than the discussion groups that followed.

The reports back revealed some common concerns.

Continuing education up to and beyond 19 was seen as a priority. Questions were asked about the Society's continuing commitment (or otherwise) to the prevention of handicap. Concern was expressed about the needs of elderly parents to safeguard their children's interests.

The phrase "double standards" came up in two areas - disabled people who were considered to want special treatment as well as integration, and the Society's past record of seeing the disability not the person and playing on public sympathy.

Richard Harris



The new Chairman, David Hendon, speaking at the conference.

Also, there had obviously been much discussion on issues of independence - community housing, residential and day care services and the generation gap in local groups.

Nigel Evans, the producer of *A Shift of Emphasis*, made some provocative remarks, particularly about the conflict 16-19 year olds face between work and creative leisure. Some people thought the Society was ahead of education generally because the curriculum in its schools often includes working for increased leisure.

The last time I was at White Lodge it was to attend an Anti-Discrimination Legislation Conference. The disabled delegates were vocal, often angry, but never boring.

If I have one criticism of an otherwise interesting and active regional conference it was the low profile of disabled delegates.

We made *A Shift of Emphasis* to open up the subject of consumer opinion. I would have liked to have heard more of it.

Anita Maunsell
Head of Publicity and Information



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29th & 30th NOVEMBER 1984

THURSDAY 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
FRIDAY 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
MAIN ENTRANCE

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It's a record breaker!

In 6 years, The Spastics Society's regional fundraising has risen from £251,000 to £1,344,000. Peter McCabe, Regional Fund Raising Manager, explains why.

The Society's Annual Report, published this month, reveals further impressive increases in appeals income. Substantial growth has been achieved from mailing appeals, legacies, shops, donations from industry and from regional appeals.

The fundraising organised by the Regions Division fulfils one of the major aims of the Division — "to maximise local income from fundraising and statutory sources to contribute to local service development costs".

The London Region, for example, has recently given a grant towards an Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit in Southwark; the NE Region has financed and run an outdoor pursuits week in Cumbria; and the Midlands Region are financially supporting a

parent relief project in Birmingham.

Over the last 6 years income has risen dramatically, from £251,000 to £1,344,000.

During the 3 year period 1979/80 to 1981/82 the Division experienced very large percentage increases: 75 per cent, 54 per cent and 43 per cent.

Immediately one can detect a worrying trend towards smaller growth and, indeed, this continued in 1982/83 with an increase of some 14 per cent. However, this trend was reversed last year with an increase of over 21 per cent (see Diagram below).

Where did all this extra income over the 6 years come from? The answer is quite simple: house to house collections.

By the end of 1978, the system devised by Iain Fowler, our late Controller of Regional Appeals, had been refined to the point where it was capable of producing massive increases in income.

In 1979/80, income from house to house collections was up 85 per cent on the previous year and in 1980/81 the growth was increased to 109 per cent. At the same time, the proportion of total income was also increased (see Diagram on the right).

This growth could not have been achieved without the efforts of our increasingly professional appeals staff.

We must also pay tribute to our local affiliated groups, who have given the staff their moral and practical support in the organisation of this mammoth task, and the 100,000 volunteers who collect from their neighbours come rain or shine.

The lesson for all of us must be that if we work together we can achieve better results.

So much for the past. What of the future?

The broad objectives for fundraisers in the regions are to consolidate our strengths and to work hard to improve those areas where we are not so strong.

We believe that there is still considerable growth potential from our house to house collections, and we are constantly reviewing and updating our methods in an effort to maximise

income and minimise costs. For example, we are trying to simplify the method of counting the money raised through house to house collections and to introduce computer technology into the system.

The effect of these changes will be to save time so that more effort can be given to developing other fundraising opportunities such as short term shops, sponsored events for both children and adults, special events and capital campaigns.

The highly successful Windsor Great Park half marathon and the B.R.M.B. Walkathon in Birmingham have shown that a well organised special event can produce an income of over £30,000.

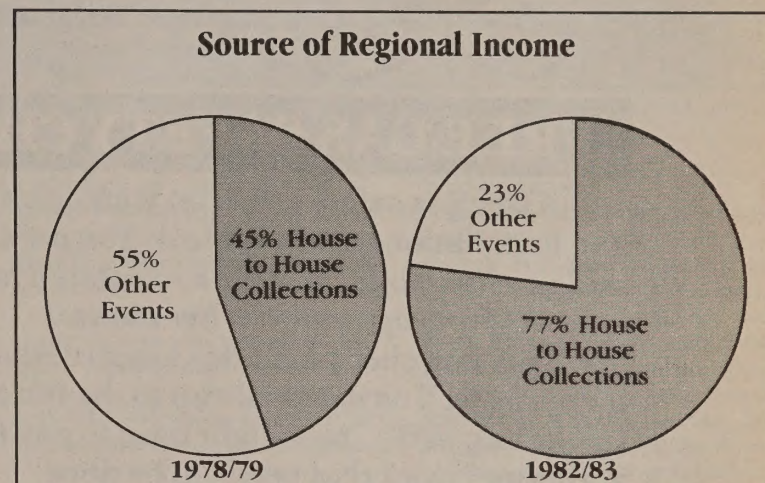
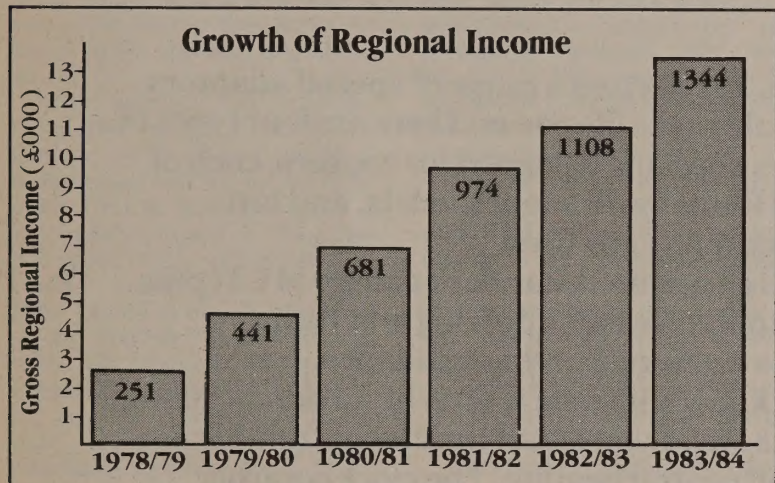
The outcome of our capital



Nigel Tuckett

campaigns for Beech Tree School (North) and the New Hyde Lea Appeal in Bolton will be pointers to the future direction of fundraising.

This month the Society's Executive Council will consider proposals for the restructuring of staff in the Division. Whatever the outcome, we are determined to continue our success story and to ensure that our Regional Committees can continue to fund local services for cp people.



CASTLE PRIORY

On the skive?

Joyce Knowles reports on a workshop for leaders of sport and leisure activities held at Castle Priory College.

"Turning the place into a holiday camp, then?" enquired a builder at Castle Priory as he saw some 30 visitors arrive with cameras slung round their necks, canoes being unloaded, maps opened and vans made ready.

He was not the only one to imply that the study of leisure and recreation is a bit of a "skive"; several members of the leadership course in September confessed to having been teased. "Why go half way across the country to do a bit of painting — plenty of walls here!"

So why?

First, these activities were different. They were chosen because of their possible application to severely cerebral palsied people or those with learning difficulties. Although some of the group were disabled, this was not an activities course; it was designed to teach, through personal involvement, the pitfalls, safety precautions, preparations or adaptations needed.

Second, Castle Priory with its garden and river setting offers ideal surroundings for a variety of indoor and outdoor enterprises. Although many staff are willing to attempt new activities in the course of their jobs, they don't often get the opportunity to try them out. Even a few sample activities can be a stimulus.

"Leadership training" is rather a formal expression to apply to the programme; "learning



Cropping and mounting photos.

together" would be more appropriate.

The word "motivation" was used many times during the week. While disabled people can choose how to fill their time, any alternatives to workshop or TV have to offer greater challenge, excitement or interest. Apathy and habit cannot be countered by mere suggestion or explanation. Teachers must be motivated themselves.

When disabled people see that staff too have their successes and disappointments in making or doing something, it can encourage them to have a go. They learn confidence and trust as well as a new skill.

Besides motivation, there must be enthusiasm. Proficiency is not enough; one must want to pass on the joy of achievement, to share in success and to counsel those who fail.

Our group leaders helped to fulfil these aims. They stimulated discovery and new experience, helped people to take pleasure in simple beginnings and to form friendships in the leisure time.

They encouraged their groups to look at what is immediately around them at wheelchair or

ground level — local flora and fauna, rough ground, the buildings, street furniture, even tombstones of a town. They encouraged them to see the land as a source of pleasurable activity, for looking at, exploring and growing things, such as houseplants or vegetables.

They allowed people to discover what can be done with hands and feet in art and craft and how to make the most of one's talents. And in photography, how to highlight the successful shot and camouflage the errors.

Groups experienced the physical and mental relaxation of Yoga, now being practiced by many more disabled people; and the feeling of trust in a leader which enables one to face the open river in a canoe with very little instruction or practice.

They learnt how to use real fishing rods and archery equipment and how to care for them properly as well.

Computer art was ably demonstrated by a severely disabled woman whose pictures and graphics are well worth hanging in any drawing room or exhibition.

Where activities could not be practised or demonstrated, they were shown on film or video and discussed afterwards.

Less tangible benefits were experienced and discussed too. By grouping and regrouping, we could observe how different individuals reacted to challenge. We suffered the stories of our anglers like any other weekend group, but we learned to understand what pleasure a "tall story" might give to someone whose achievements are limited.

The issue of "segregated" or "integrated" leisure was raised. It seemed that there may be a series of stages from one to the other. Perhaps some disabled people need to gain confidence and learn to be leaders among a

peer group first. Developing a vivacious and lively personality may be more important than acquiring a skill. For a leader it may be as important to broaden someone's interests as to encourage proficiency.

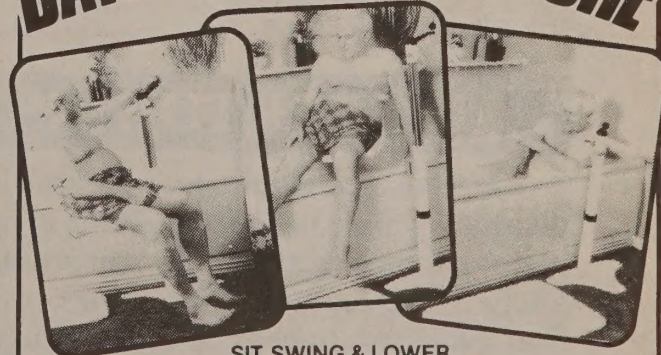
With people attending from overseas and various parts of Britain, there was a discussion about how far leisure is culture-based. The group tended to think that disabled people want to do what others of their age group are doing. If the local sport is keeping pigeons or playing roulette or messing about in boats, then these should be

made as accessible as possible. Angela Stephanos, for example, who was in a wheelchair, thought that she could adapt much of what she had learnt to local conditions in Greece.

Among the speakers and group leaders were current or ex-staff of The Spastics Society who have worked together on previous programmes. This method of learning by sampling and discussion is, they believe, an important ingredient in leadership training.

Joyce Knowles is Principal of Castle Priory College.

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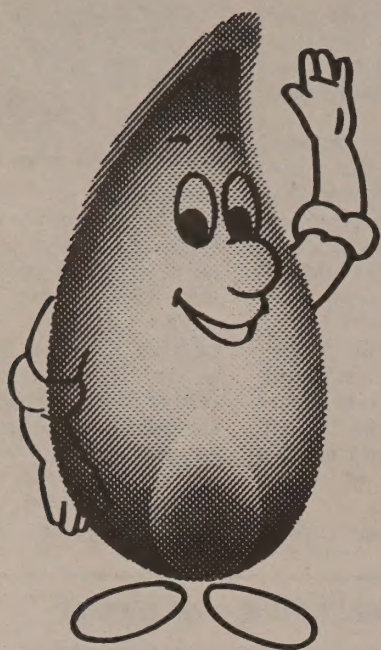
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"HELP FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED."

The gas people offer a wide range of help to those who need it most, particularly the elderly and disabled.

If you are elderly or disabled, here are some of the ways in which we can make life easier for you. If you know somebody who might benefit from these services, please pass the information to them.

FREE GAS SAFETY CHECKS

A free gas safety check on your gas appliances and installations is available if: *You are 65 or over and you live alone; You are a registered handicapped person of any age and you live alone.*

This free check includes any necessary adjustments as well as materials up to the cost of £2.50 (including VAT). You might have to pay for any additional work that needs to be done.

SERVICING AND LEAKS

Gas fires, water heaters and central heating systems all need servicing from time to time. All customers can be assured that their appliances are operating safely and efficiently if they have them serviced regularly by competent people.

You should also bear in mind that checking and making safe a suspected escape, and simple gas escape repairs will usually be free. Why? Because we do not charge for the first 30 minutes of work, nor will we charge for parts and materials up to the value of £1 installed during that initial visit. If you suspect a gas leak at home or in the street, report it at once. The phone is quickest — call the emergency number for your area, under "GAS" in the local telephone directory.

AIDS FOR THE DISABLED

Modern gas appliances are much easier for disabled people to use. Gas built-in ovens and hot-plates can be placed at a convenient height in the kitchen for people in wheelchairs or for people who find it difficult to bend down or reach up when they are cooking. Most new cookers and fires now have automatic spark ignition and need no matches to light them.

If you have a hand disability, you might find the controls on your cooker or gas fire difficult to operate.

British Gas has devised a range of special adaptors which should make life easier. There are four types of tap handles specially designed for cookers, each of which will fit many different models, and tap adaptors for many gas fires.

There is a nominal standard charge of £2 (plus VAT) per appliance for supplying and fitting adaptors to a new or existing appliance.

If you know someone who is blind or has failing sight, please tell them about braille controls for cookers and central heating. The clock controls which switch central heating on and off can be brailled. Special braille or studded oven thermostat dials are available for most gas cookers, together with braille cooking charts.

ASK US TO HELP YOU

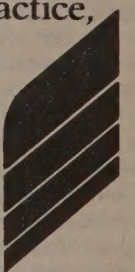
British Gas has a team of Home Service Advisers, who will call on disabled people at home and provide free advice on the use of gas. They can provide information about special adaptors and handles and advise on the choice of suitable appliances.

If you would like to contact the Home Service Advisers or to enquire about free gas safety checks, regular servicing for appliances or aids for the disabled, visit your local gas showroom or telephone the gas service centre (the phone number is under "GAS" in the local directory).

PAYING FOR GAS

The showroom can also tell you about easier ways to pay your gas bills, and how to get help if there is real hardship — ask for the Code of Practice, "Electricity and gas bills for your home."

BRITISH GAS



HELPFUEL SERVICES FROM THE GAS PEOPLE.

RoSPA British Gas supports RoSPA and Age Concern in its 'Home Safety in Retirement' Campaign. **AGE CONCERN**



The spirit of hospitality – Dr Hak Mook Kim, President of the Korean Cerebral Palsy Society, offers rice wine to George Marshall.

What would your reaction be if you were offered the chance to travel to the opposite side of the world?

This summer, 15 students from The Society's Beaumont College in Lancaster, with 5 members of staff led by the Principal, George Marshall, spent 2 weeks in South Korea. It was the first phase of an international exchange arranged by Cerebral Palsy Overseas to link members of the English Spastics Society with the Japanese Society for Physically Disabled Young People and the relatively new Korean Cerebral Palsy Society. Financial support came from The Spastics Society and the British Council.

Visiting a country which lies between Japan and China on the eastern perimeter of Asia is quite an undertaking. The outward journey alone took 2½ days. It involved an overnight coach to London Heathrow, two different aeroplane flights to Taiwan where there was an overnight

The chance of a lifetime

by Mike O'Connell

In return for outstanding hospitality in South Korea, British students were able to draw public attention to disability and set an example of independence.

George Marshall

stop, and then another 3 hour flight to Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

When we arrived, our group was met by Mrs Chungai Min and Mrs Choi Kyoung Ja, two of the chief organisers of the project in Korea.

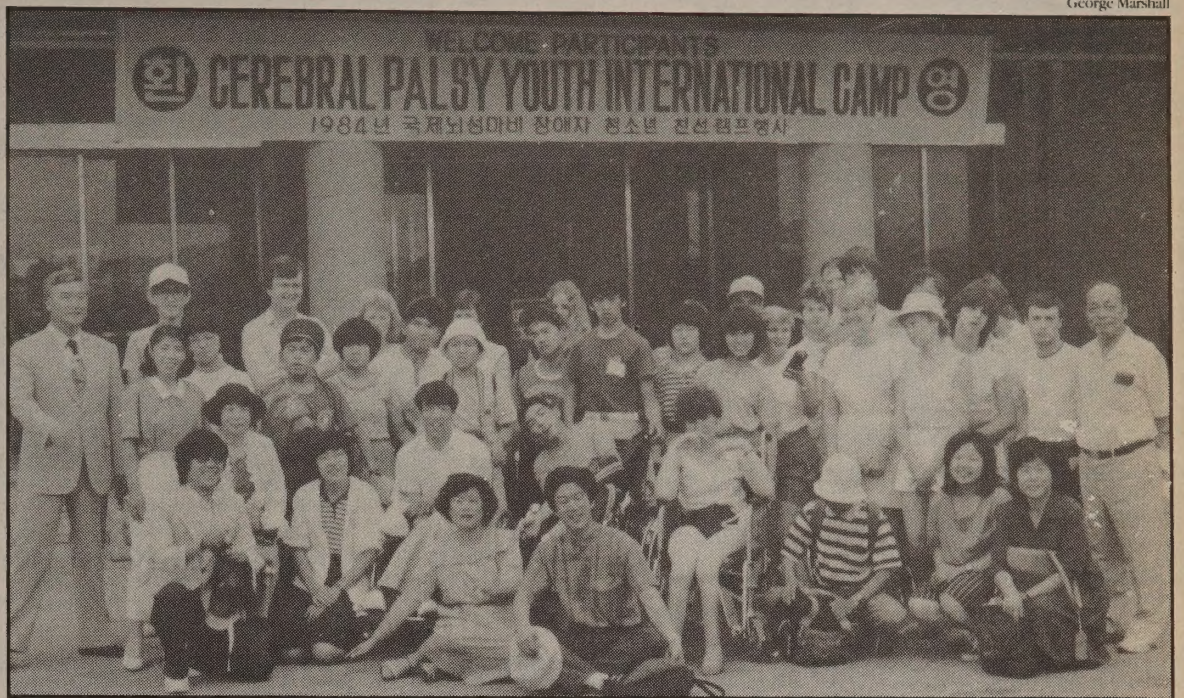
The programme of events started almost at once with a formal dinner and reception at one of Seoul's top hotels which was fully accessible to wheelchairs.

There were over 250 guests including the South Korean Minister for Education, politicians, business men and diplomats. Many of them had helped to sponsor the exchange.

The evening was important for all physically disabled people in South Korea because it not only drew public attention to their needs, but underlined the government's commitment to providing facilities and resources. In this respect the British visitors were ambassadors for the future interests of the physically disabled in South Korea.

For the next few days, our base was a holiday and recreational centre in the mountainous north-east region of the country. As well as taking part in discussions and group activities, we visited hill farms which seemed not unlike British ones except that they were cultivated differently. We also swam in the Sea of Japan.

Each of the 3 nationalities had been asked to provide an evening's entertainment. While Japanese and Korean staff members gave talks and films, our students had decided to "do their own thing." Using drama, they put over humourously the idea of the distance between London and Korea. Then, with slides and tapes, they illustrated themes of Springtime in England, the coun-



The welcome at Kyongju. The Japanese and British groups with their Korean hosts. Mike O'Connell stands back row, third from the left.

tryside of the North West and Lancashire, its history, customs and dialect.

Everywhere there were new and different experiences to savour. In the Eastern tradition, gifts were exchanged between individuals and people who had contributed to the project. Korean protocol expects hosts to provide exceptional hospitality, which created a quite overwhelming sense of "receiving".

Koreans are great speech-makers; every day there were formal speeches punctuated by energetic clapping. They also enjoy singing – not just their own songs, but British ones too, which stretched our memories to the limit!

From the holiday centre, the Japanese and British groups

embarked on a short tour of the country guided by Dr Hak Mook Kim, President of the Korean Cerebral Palsy Society, Mrs Min and Mrs Choi.

The countryside was hilly and mountainous and looked all the more spectacular when contrasted to the flatness of the valleys filled with rice fields which had been dammed and irrigated.

Kyongju, in the south, was the centre for some of Korea's



Acting it out – Joanne Connelly and Paul Seeds with one of their Japanese friends.

greatest archaeological remains – tombs, treasures and temples.

On the way back to Seoul, we visited Daegu University where we saw buildings designed for disabled students, a Braille printing press and a recording studio which can turn out tapes for a talking library at the rate of 10 copies at a time.

As we were leaving, out came the white gloves and shovels, and George Marshall was asked to plant a tree to commemorate our visit.

Back in Seoul there was a grand evening garden party and barbecue to complete the of-

ficial exchange.

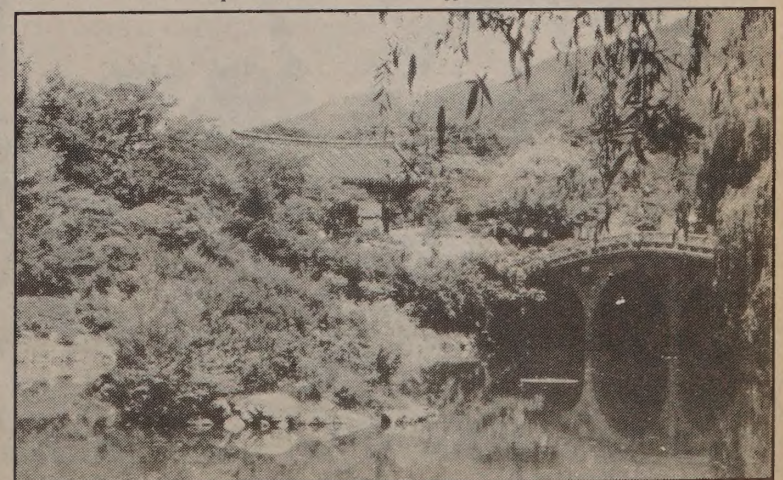
But the British group stayed on for another 4 days to explore the city at a more leisurely pace, eg the facilities of a 5-star hotel, the shops, an educational and work training centre, and some restaurants. Caring and generous as ever, the Koreans invited us to stay in their family homes and sleep, Korean style, on the floor.

When we finally got back to England, there were so many marvellous experiences to remember, from travelling in long-distance aircraft (with toilets like telephone boxes), to eating with chopsticks, paddling in a paddy field, and giving a TV interview. The programme had been packed and the pace punishing, but it was more than worth it for the chance of a lifetime.

The trip also encouraged our disabled students to increase their independence in line with the aims of Beaumont College. More self-responsibility was expected of them than of their Korean or Japanese counterparts. They had, for example, to manage their own baggage and communicate with shopkeepers. The way they made their own decisions and put them into practice had quite an impact on people they met, and was one of the most valuable British contributions to the exchange.

Hopefully, we shall be able to return the hospitality we received within the next two years. The reciprocal exchange will be student planned and organised and will build on the shared experience and friendship that was established during this visit.

Mike O'Connell is a member of staff at Beaumont College.



Temple gardens at Kyongju, in the south of the country.

Golden boys will help CPO



The Mecca for all cyclists? Dave Williams (left) and Rick Delvin on their historic trip via Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

It isn't every day that Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award winners come knocking at the door of CPO asking to help. But Rick Delvin, "25, single, still living", and his friend, Dave Williams, 23, from Nottingham, were at a loose end in September.

In October last year they completed a 14,000 mile, 17-month cycling marathon from England to Australia which raised £12,000 for the British Heart Foundation as well as smaller sums for other countries along the way.

For this feat the Duke of Edinburgh will present them with a gold award this month.

They will also be guests on the Russell Harty show on 19 November.

Earlier this year, they cycled a mere 3,500 miles around Western Australia and raised £1,400 for the Spastic Welfare Association of Western Australia.

Now they are back in England. "The Yugoslav Airline wanted to fly us back 1st class, so we let them", said Rick.

They are writing a book about their experiences, conducting their own publicity, and looking round for fresh fields of endeavour.

When they telephoned The Spastics Society the operator re-

ferred them to CPO, and that was how Rick and Dave met Derek Lancaster-Gaye and Richard Gray.

"We hit it off at once", said Dave. "We are all on the same wavelength."

The challenge of organising a project and seeing it through, taking risks, and helping people with disabilities appeals to all of them. As Rick put it, "We wanted to do something different. We didn't want to be unemployed sitting on our behinds. We thought we might as well be of use to somebody."

"Also," he added shrewdly, "it stands you in good stead for the rest of your life."

Inevitably, they are planning another trip.

"It will be exciting for all of us and for spastic societies on both sides of the channel – and it will involve cycling", was all Dave would say at this stage.

But the plan may involve governments which are generally considered "difficult." This does not daunt Rick and Dave.

"We found that once we had got into countries thought of as difficult to visit we got a good reaction from both the people and the authorities," said Dave.

In Saudi Arabia, for example, they met members of the royal family, and in Libya they talked with the Minister of Health.

"Libyans were saying to us, 'Can we help? We are good people,'" said Rick.

"It's politics that buggers up the people."



Tunkers' Phoenix, a new electric wheelchair for indoor and outdoor use. £2,115 from Elieser E Domroes, 23 Josephine Avenue, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey. Tel: 0737 832199.



Tunkers' Butler Lifting Wheelchair, for office or household, is a self-propelled chair with hydraulic lifting facility. £2,700.



The Wayfarer has 6-speed control and removable battery. Everest and Jennings, Princewood Road, Corby, Northants.

naidex

20,000 visitors came to gaze at prices and burden themselves possible at this year's Naidex.

Naidex '84 had 3 times the number of the Royal Showground outside Corby.

The 3 halls were bustling to capacity. Saturday was not so popular, and Naidex was held only during the week.

Narrow gangways and a ramp with congestion problems with wheelchairs, food, transport and toilets for the disabled.

Disability Now went on its campaign refusing to be thrown by enthusiasm applied to anything under 3-year-old equipment were in larger (more) and tricycles.

There were fewer new developments than might have expected.

Chris Davies, Michael Levin, Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, occupational therapist at the Society for Occupational Therapy, caught their eye.

Mobility

If I had £2,700 . . .

Michael Levinge and I were college students together, and have remained friends. We are both wheelchair-bound, but he is independently mobile and able to do what I cannot. Together we looked at the transport exhibits, and then compared notes.

This being my third Naidex, but Mike's first, I sought his overall reaction. He said he felt like a kid in a sweet shop with limitless cash to spend. He was impressed by the show's size, but felt the layout was restrictive. We agreed the prices were remarkably high.

Looking at wheelchairs, it was regrettable that many are purely functional. It seems that the industry makes a basic chair without ingenuity, that new technology in manufacturing is needed and that, ideally, wheelchairs should comprise component parts which would enable people to buy customised chairs. However, this might mean travelling to a specialist stockist.

Costs matter. Anything more than the standard DHSS chair is going to cost a lot. A chair for outdoor pursuits means extra expense.

Of all the wheelchairs for cp people, I wondered which ones Mike remembered best. His first choice was **Tunkers' Butler Lifting Wheelchair**. "Unfortunately," he said, "it is only for indoors, otherwise it's ideal." The trouble is it costs £2,700!

His next choice: **NV Distributors' three new models, New Power Plus II, New Compact Plus and New Extra Plus II**, which are easily adapted for head, chin or breath control. (Adaptations cost from £50 to £300). The New Power Plus II

also has brakes on the handles.

As for the rest, we considered **Remploy's** range to be simply functional and rather ordinary. We thought that the **Meyra** range was sturdy, had a range of controls, but no breath control, and was expensive. **Carter's** range, like **Remploy's**, were ordinary and had only joystick control. **Tunkers' Phoenix** chair, though, has a choice of control, climbs curbs and folds easily.

The Wayfarer from **Everest & Jennings** was unanimously considered the Rolls Royce of chairs - luxurious, adaptable and expensive.

Since wheelchairs only partly solve transport difficulties, Mike and I looked at cars.

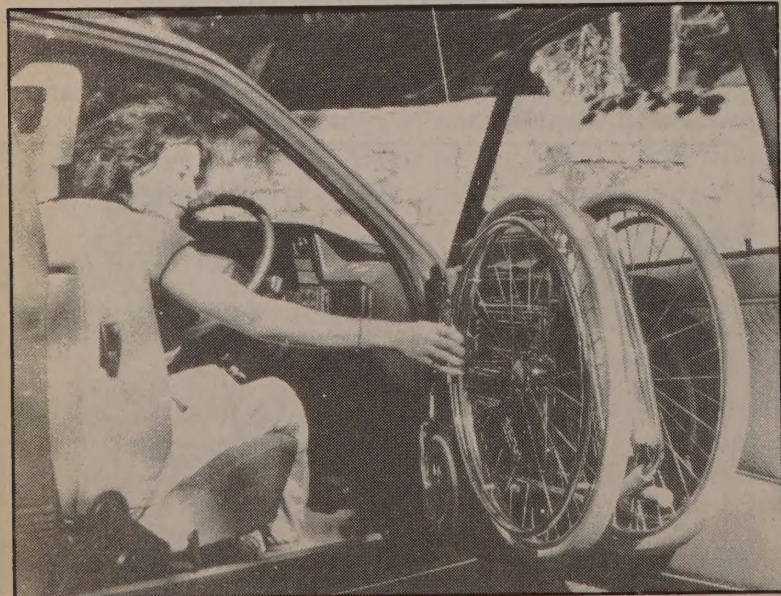
We found that the **Vauxhall Astra Opel** had been converted by **Automobility** to enable people in wheel chairs to hoist themselves and their chair into the car. It is also feasible for the driver to close the hatch back door from his or her seat. However, this conversion is only suitable for Everest and Jennings chairs.

Gowring Mobility International converts **Escorts** and **Metros** for wheelchair bound passengers.

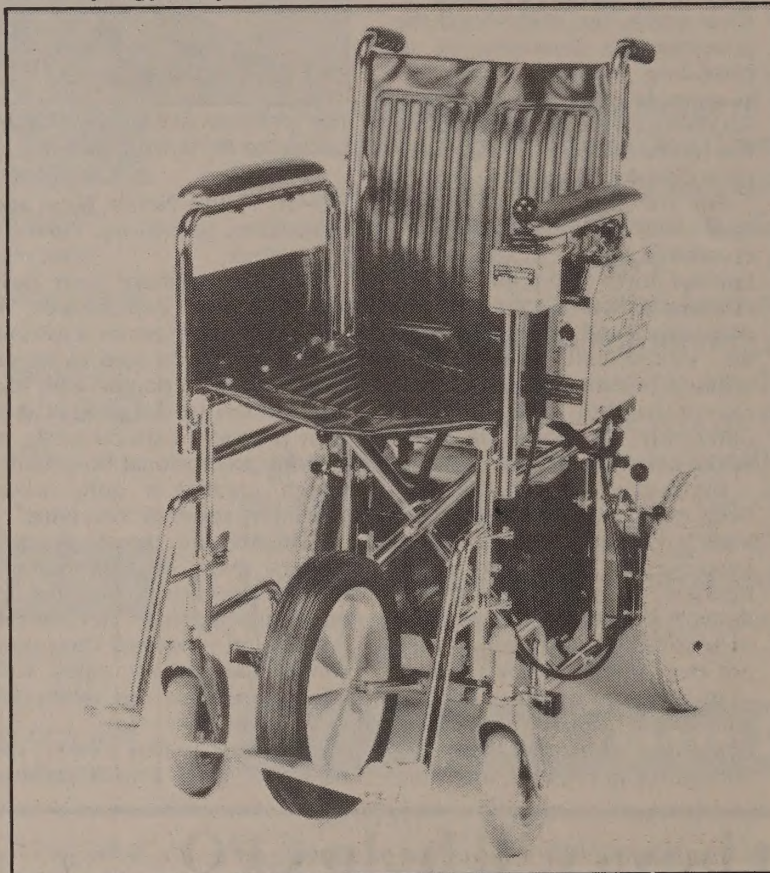
The ramp on the **Chairman Escort** is apparently rather steep, but the **Chairman Metro** has space for an able-bodied passenger alongside the wheelchair passenger in the back seat.

Overall, Mike and I agreed that cost is the biggest single factor determining choice. Having to exchange mobility allowance for **Motobility** places people in a "no win" situation.

Chris Davies
Michael Levinge



The Automobility conversion of a Vauxhall Astra. Automobility Ltd, Unit 1a, North Tyne Industrial Estate, Whitley Road, Longbenton, Tyne and Wear NE12 9SZ. Tel: (0632) 700880.



The New Power Plus II climbs and descends kerbs and is easily folded. NV Distributors, Sootbouse Spring, Valley Road Industrial Estate, St Albans, Herts. Tel: (0727) 34255.

Computer Technology

New and improved means of Communication

Communication by eye pointing must be familiar to many parents and therapists but it takes on a new meaning with **Cedric**. This sophisticated equipment allows you to control a computer, and hence other connected electronic equipment, by eye-gaze alone, without any connections or attachments to the user.

The machine can resolve the direction in which you are looking by using a TV image of your eye illuminated under very low intensity red light. The video screen, which can also display this TV image to help calibration, normally shows one out of a possible 25 pages of selection menus. Selection is made by looking at one of the 72 cells in a menu for up to 2 seconds.

Cedric was developed in Australia by **Santech Pty Ltd**, who brought the pre-production prototype to Naidex to establish interest and look for a UK distributor.

Further development is anticipated and a version programmed with fewer options per menu page would be more viable for some operators.

Successful operation, as we discovered, does depend on good eye control, a fairly stable head, and comfortable, adjust-

able seating. You also need £12,000!

However, it is most encouraging to see this technology out of the research labs. The potential now exists for some people with severe disabilities to communicate rapidly and effectively.

Toby Churchill Ltd, was showing the new **Lightwriter SL4** which is lighter, cheaper, more powerful and more compact than earlier models.

This popular communication aid is basically a keyboard and single line "rolling" display which will provide clear and easy communication for those unable to speak. The 20 fixed-phrase memory is complemented with a further 10 user phrases, and several options are available to suit different users and applications. These include keyguards, an extra display facing away from the user, an integral printer, and rechargeable batteries.

The telephone which is a lifeline to so many can also be a lifesaver - especially with the **Answercall 500** shown on the stand of **F. Llewellyn & Co**.

Besides having a useful range of push buttons, it may also be triggered by the user carrying a pendant transmitter up to 250 ft

away. The telephone will then automatically dial up to four user determined numbers and play a pre-recorded message requesting help.

It seems an excellent system for sheltered housing and, furthermore, there is only the initial cost.

The increasing awareness that disabled people can benefit from microcomputers is tempered by the reality that they represent only a small market. The **Newtech Keymaster** from **Clywd Technics Ltd**, is therefore most welcome. It allows non-keyboard users access to commercial, keyboard driven, software on the BBC Microcomputer without modification.

Two systems are currently available. One has a separate display showing the BBC keyboard, and the user selects the keys required through conventional scanning techniques using single or dual switches. The other system selects BBC keys by means of an easily learnt code and a joystick input, and does not require a separate display. Most keys need three movements of the joystick, whilst none requires more than four.

Peter Watts
UMIST



Ruth Everard in the Everaids Turbo grammes allowing a wide variety of the joystick control. The child sits on the spot and adjust the level from Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5JU.

ex'84

s, tinker with toys, grumble about as many glossy pieces of paper as

exhibitors as the last Naidex held at try in 1981.

int of bursting on the first 3 days. e organisers are now considering

step at the end provided one or two s, but most people seemed content es.

ary search for new products and, ic exhibitors who felt that "new" old, found that most of the new nsive) aids like wheelchairs, hoists

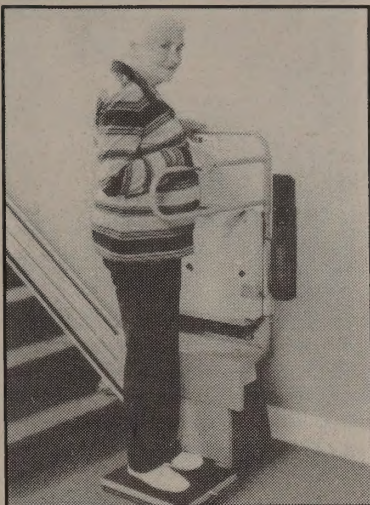
nts in microtechnology than one

Peter Watts of the University of d Technology, and Janet Ciddor, Visiting Aids Centre, round up the

Cambridge Evening News



Chair. It has a choice of computer pro- en, from 12 months to 12 years, to master s at the centre of movement and can spin ound. Everaids Ltd, 172 Cambridge Road, 223) 844280/841659.



The new Stannab Silver Rail for straight staircases. Abucon PR, 151 Ashley Gardens, London SW1. Tel: 01-828 2173.

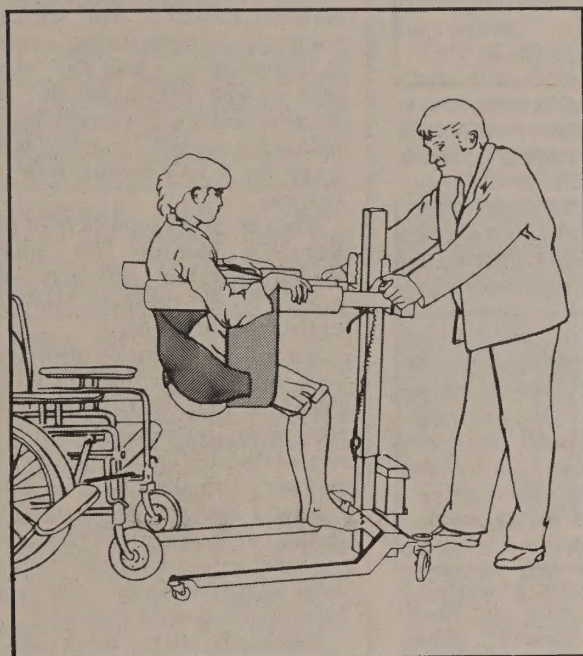


The Nippi is a 3-wheel motor bike which accom- modates a wheelchair. It has fully automatic trans- mission, easy access and a top speed of 40 mph. Kits from £695, complete bikes £1,985. Special Vehicle Designs Ltd, Findern, Derbyshire DE6 6QL. Tel: (0332) 519508.

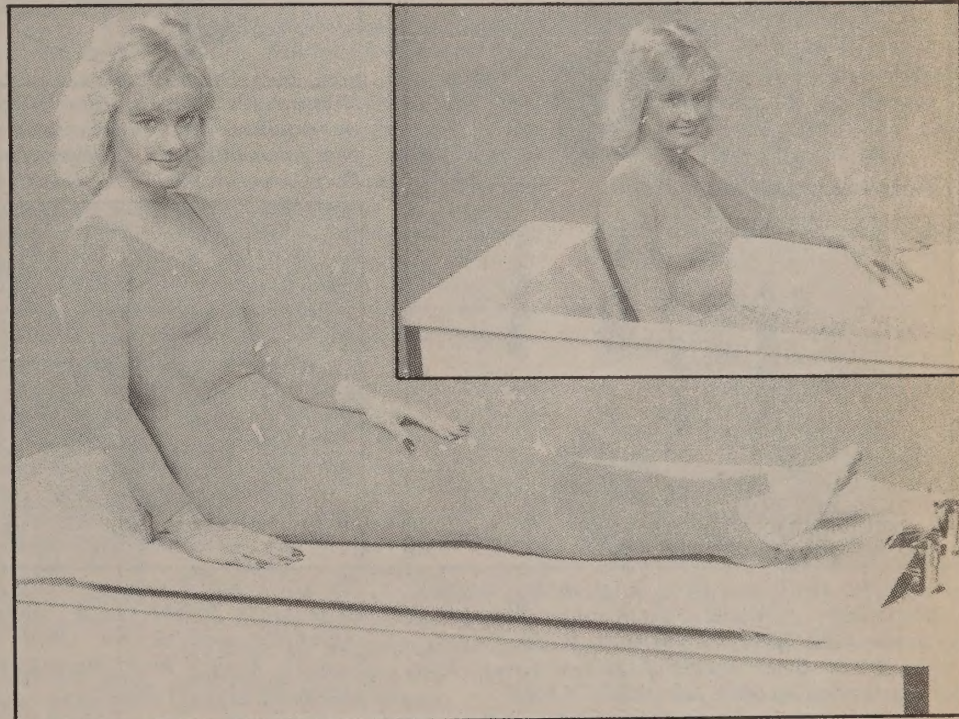


The new BEC Scoota Nova is at home on grass and gravel. Special soft-compound tyres provide a smooth ride and allow it to climb kerbs. Like all BEC wheelchairs, it is lightweight and transport- able. £985. BEC Mobility, 103 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3UB. Tel: 021-550 7326.

Other useful aids and equipment on show



The Molift Handy from Norway should be available in Britain soon. It is an electric lifter for the home or institution with lifting arms adjustable to all widths of wheelchairs. The Handy's low legs and high lift ability make it suitable for baths and showers, and for lifting people from floor level.



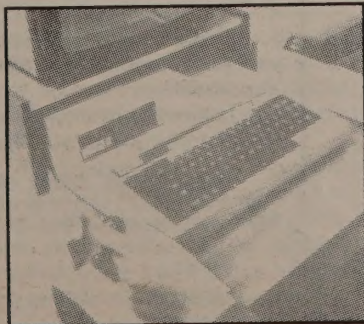
The Aqua-Tec will lower or raise people (either sitting or with their legs outstretched) when coupled to a mains cold water supply. It can be easily transported, and a backrest is available as an optional extra. Price £1,125 from Llewellyn.



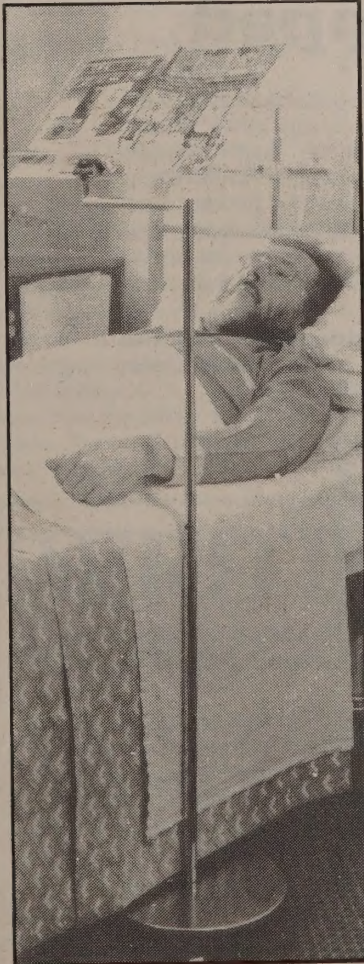
Answercall 500 Care Phone dials automatically when triggered by the agency button. F Llewellyn & Co Ltd, Carlton Street, Liverpool L3 7ED. Tel: 036 5311.



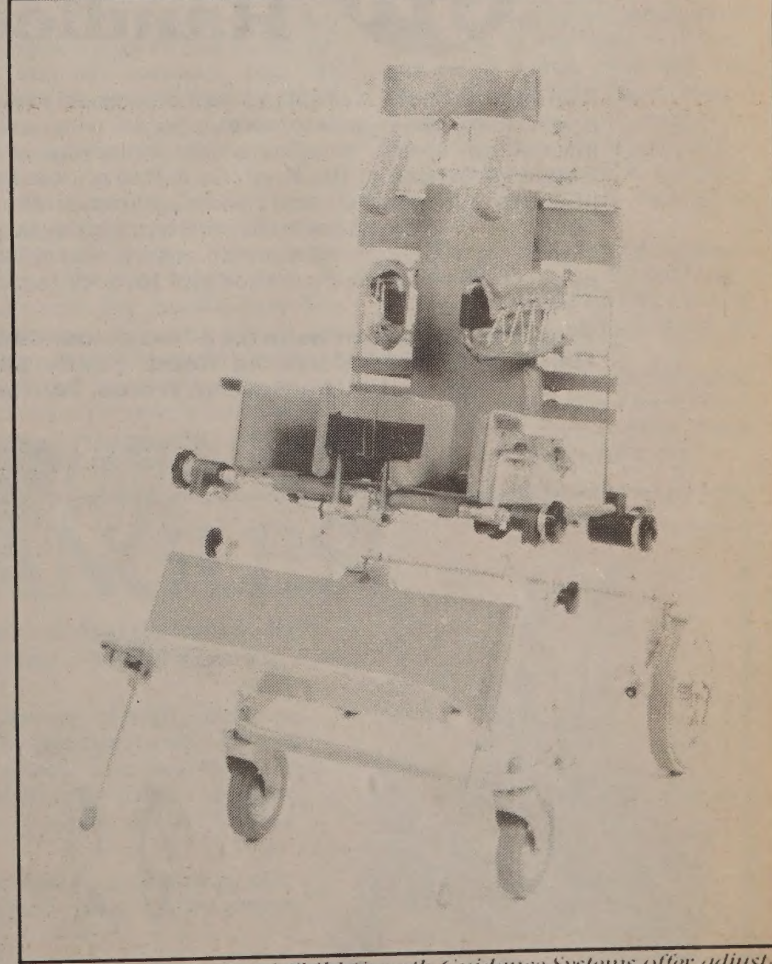
new Lightwriter SL4 provides easy com- munication for those unable to speak. Toby Hill Ltd, 20 Pantons Street, Cambridge CB2 Tel: (0233) 316117.



Keymaster, from Cluyd Technics Ltd, Unit 4b, Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn, Cluyd CH7 5JH. Tel: (035283) 751.

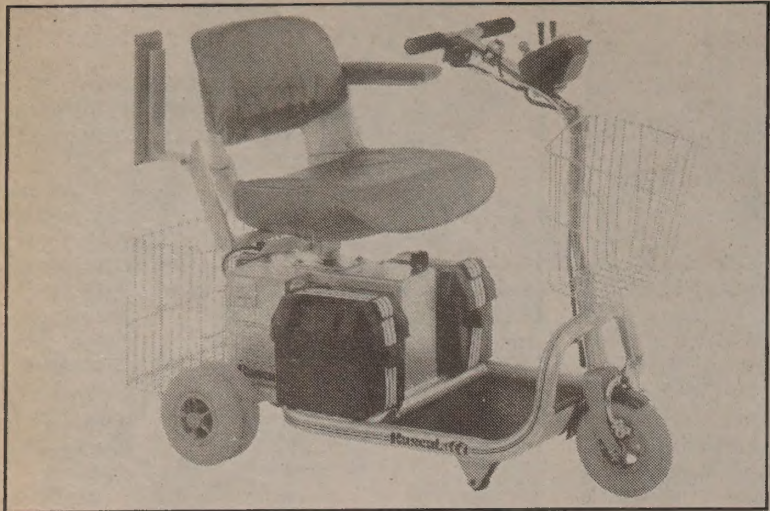


The Siesta aids reading for bed- rest patients, and has accessories for a range of purposes. Perforag, Greaves Way, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Tel: (0525) 376743.



The Linido Mulbolland Child Growth Guidance Systems offer adjust- able positioning control through a system of changeable components. The modular posture controls are now available for a variety of con- ventional wheelchairs. Amilake Ltd, Haslemere Industrial Estate, 20 Ravensbury Terrace, London SW18 4SB. Tel: 01-947 7771.

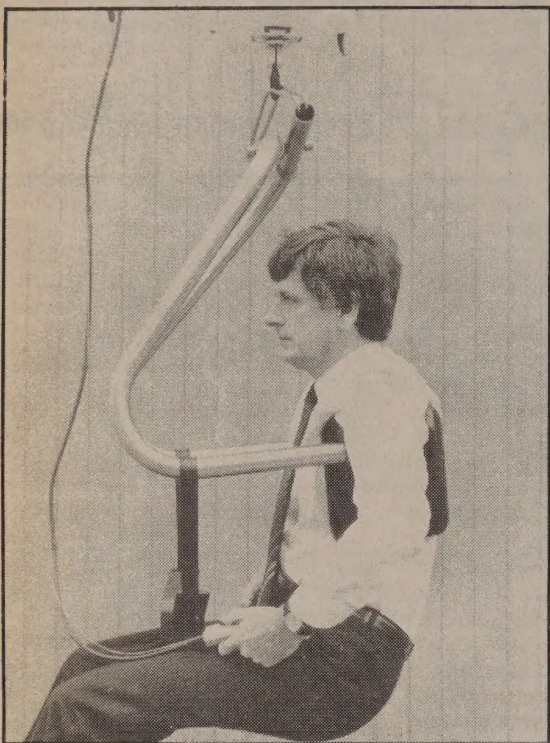
More from naidex . . .



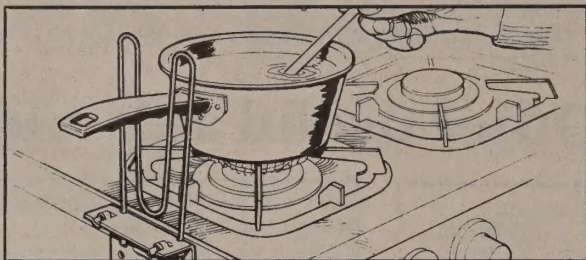
The new Deluxe Small Frame Rascal has a padded folding seat with lifting arm rests, dual wheels and maintenance-free batteries. A new factory-installed option, the 6 inch Electric Seat Lift, can be incorporated. Electric Mobility Corporation, 19 Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JG. Tel: (0344) 481884.



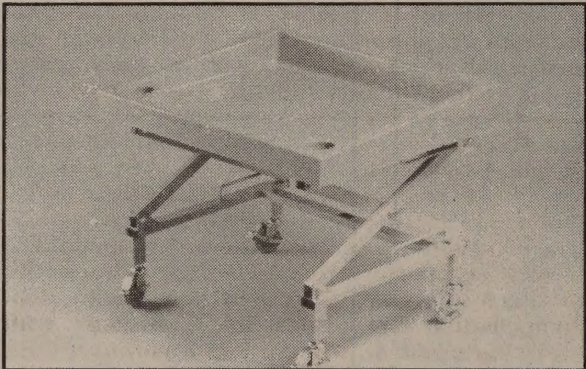
The Batricar consists of 6 parts and can be dismantled to fit in a car, with no wires or sockets to disconnect. Batricar Ltd, Griffin Mill, Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 2AZ. Tel: 0453 882243.



The Handi-Move, new from Belgium, is a strapless lifting device. 2 crossed arms fit under the legs and grip the sides tightly. £480 from Wards Mobility Services Ltd, Ware Works, Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9BD. Tel: (0892 75) 686.



Homecraft's Pan-Handle Holder prevents movement while stirring and acts as a general safety device for adults and children. Homecraft, 27 Trinity Road, London SW17 7SE. Tel: 01-672 7070/1-789.



The Variweight Table, for work or play, now comes in a lower height (12-27 inches from the floor) especially suitable for child assessment centres. Joncare, Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon, Oxon. Tel: (0235) 28120.



Arthur Heel, production manager of Newton Products, explains to Mr Makoto Nakano and members of the Japanese group the advantages of the Newton R Lightweight wheelchair (left). Made of aluminium, it is one of the lightest wheelchairs on the market, and when folded will go in the boot of a car.

Newton Products attracts Japanese interest

Newton Products, The Spastics Society's manufacturing centre in Birmingham, was the main port of call last month for 26 doctors and social workers from voluntary agencies in Japan who were on a fact-finding tour of Europe.

They were all members of the Research Institute for Social Welfare Services which is supported by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Although communication was only possible through an interpreter, it was clear the visitors were impressed with the size of the factory, the number of workers (95 disabled, 50 able-bodied) and the range of products, particularly wheelchairs.

"They seem to have no comparable factory in Japan", said Peter Heaver, the general manager.

Although there were questions about facilities and marketing, the visitors seemed most interested in the disabled people - what work they could do, their

rates of pay and hours of work, and the fact that several of them were married. Cameras were busy as members of the party photographed each other alongside the workers.

"It was a bit overpowering for our people," said Peter Heaver, "but they laughed."

As the visitors left, Mr Makoto Nakano, the leader, presented Peter Heaver with a necklace and tie-clip made by disabled people at a workshop in Japan.

The Disabled Committee at Newton Products is now deciding who should have the mementoes.

If you would like to receive a free copy of the newspaper regularly, please send your name, address and occupation to the Circulation Supervisor, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



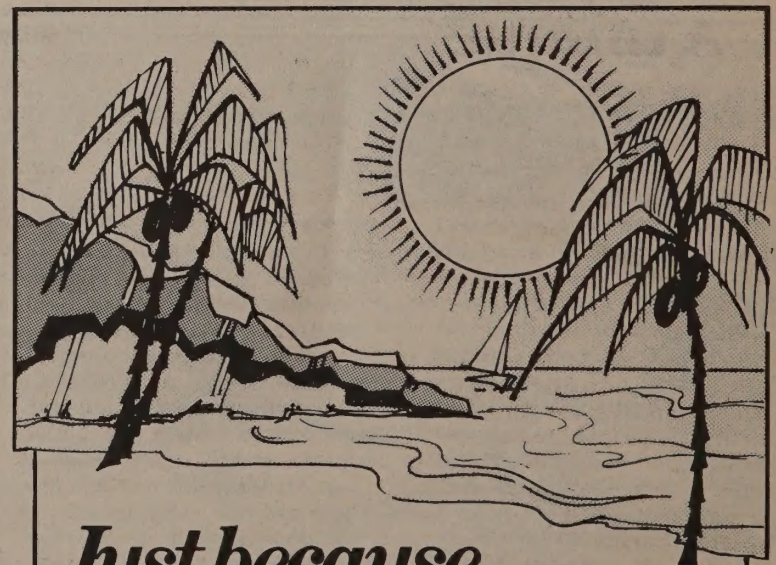
Toys for the Handicapped

A wide selection of exciting well designed toys for disabled children and adults. Swings and roundabouts with special supportive seats; interesting ideas in electronics including Micromate (with Touch Sensitive Screen or Big Knob Switch to enable handicapped children to play computer games and use programs), Pethna Reward Boxes, and designs by Mr. Jim Sandhu of HPRU; including sound bubbles, eccentric circles and pelican crossings; really sturdy tricycles and go-karts; puzzles with big knobs; all sorts of toys for home, school and hospital.

Please telephone or write for a free colour catalogue to Toys for the Handicapped, 76 Barracks Road, Sandy Lane Industrial Estate, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. Tel: (02993) 78820.



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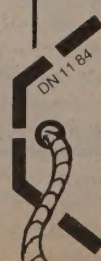
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OUTLOOK

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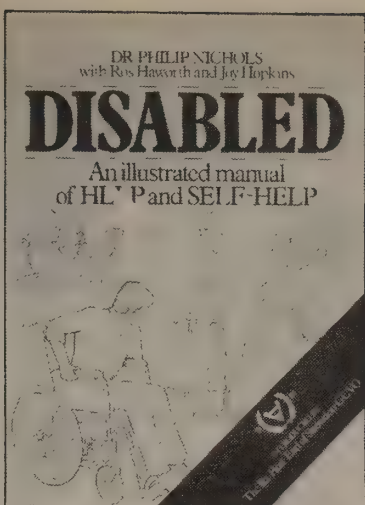
A limited edition of *Disabled: an illustrated manual of help and self-help* is available to readers of *Disability Now* for only £6.95 (published price, £9.95).

For every copy sold, the publishers, David & Charles, have generously offered to donate a third of the price, or £2.31, to the Society.

Janet Ciddor, occupational therapist for the Society's Visiting Aids Centre, gives her opinion of the book.

"Although published in 1981, *Disabled* is a book which hasn't dated because the problems it tackles are perennial. It covers all aspects of daily living.

"I particularly like the way it presents a problem and then offers various ways of solving it, depending on an individual's capabilities. The point is frequently made that the amount of help a disabled person needs will



vary, depending on the individual, the disability and the degree of disability.

"The book is clearly laid out, easy to read and has clear illustrations. No specific manufacturers are mentioned, but one is given a good idea of where to go for more detailed information.

"All in all, an excellent book, and one which should appeal not only to disabled people and their families, but to students in a whole range of fields."

To obtain your copy, send a cheque for £8.00 (£6.95 plus postage) to the Librarian, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Correction. Copies of *Write Angles* are available from The Spastics Society, price £3.50 plus 50p postage and packing.

Theatre

Polka Children's Theatre

Walking into the Polka Theatre is like entering Aladdin's Cave.

Arched glass doors lead into a foyer which is a treasure trove of toys.

Up the stairs, a glass case contains a mysterious miniature landscape. Above the archway into the theatre "Open sesame!" is picked out in gold on the black wall.

The theatre roof is traversed with scrolls of wrought iron. There is magical music playing and the stage is covered with icicles and caves of ice.

The surroundings alone are enough to captivate the 200 or so schoolchildren who have come to see *Wenceslas the Winter King* by Vicky Ireland. It is a lively and atmospheric Christmas play about dragons, an evil ice queen and a good but weak king who tries to "bring back the spring and conquer the cold" in his country.

One of the aims of the Polka Children's Theatre on Wimbledon Broadway is to make such an experience available to as wide a range of children as possible – especially disabled children.

Facilities in the building, including a playground and picnic area, are all accessible.

Financed by the GLC, the Arts



Naomi Adler with friends.

Council and its own fundraising efforts, the theatre hosts and tours plays for all ages of children. It holds workshops on drama, mime, clowning, dance, stories, mask-making and puppetry – mainly for children but also for teachers, therapists and parents.

Naomi Adler, who directs its work with disabled children, runs workshops on puppetry.

"I feel it's the birthright of every child to be involved in the arts," she says. "And I feel that lots of disabled children are not getting that birthright."

She also believes that puppetry can have important therapeutic spin-offs for disabled children.

"In a performance, the participating children feel themselves concealed from the audience and free to perform," she says. "Speech problems tend to improve, and even children with no speech at all can produce unbelievable effects."

"Cutting, glueing and painting to make the puppet, and then operating it, can help develop

fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination."

"In a puppet play, a child in a wheelchair can become a beautiful princess, or a strong, handsome prince riding a horse. This experience can give children a new dimension and view of themselves."

Each workshop is specially prepared for an individual group. Naomi visits the special school or unit prior to the workshop to assess the children's potential and discuss the stories they would like to perform.

She likes to hold the workshops at the theatre because of the unique surroundings, but she does hold them at the schools.

The puppets vary enormously according to the wishes and ability of the children – they make glove puppets, marionettes, giant puppets, body puppets.

Mentally handicapped children often find shadow puppets the easiest to make and operate.

The puppet workshops for disabled children are 25p per child.

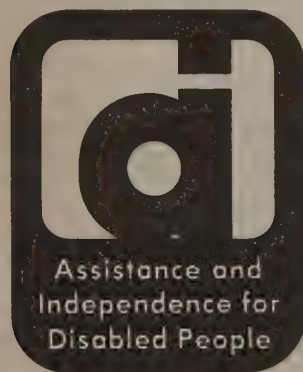
Naomi is now hoping to start an after-school integrated puppet workshop.

And her own theatre company, "Dragon Tree", is premiering a show for mentally handicapped children at the Polka Theatre, starting on 10 November. Then it will go on tour to nursery and special schools.

Simon Crompton

Polka Children's Theatre, 240 The Broadway, London SW19. Tel: 01-543 4888.

Motoring



A unique package deal

Assistance and Independence for Disabled People (AID) is a new commercial organisation which has been established to provide cars on hire purchase to disabled people.

The company offers a unique package deal to the purchaser, including a discount on the price of the car itself, an extended warranty and mechanical breakdown insurance, life assurance, emergency rescue service and motor insurance.

The cars available through AID include all those currently on sale in this country, whether of British or foreign manufacture, and the company is able to offer discounts on most makes and models.

The hire purchase agreements (arranged through Greyhound Equipment Finance Ltd) run for up to five years and prospective purchasers do not necessarily have to be in receipt of Mobility Allowance, although they will have to prove that they are creditworthy.

Any adaptations or conversions that are required to be made to the vehicle can be arranged by AID and the cost included in the HP repayments.

If the total cost of the car (in-

cluding any adaptations) does not amount to more than £4,000 the company does not require a deposit to be paid; for cars costing in excess of £4,000 there is a 10 per cent deposit.

The interest rates are quite high: approximately 21.0 per cent true, compared with Motability's approximate 16.5 per cent true; so if a Mobility Allowance recipient was considering buying, for example, a Fiat Panda 45 Comfort, it would be worth his or her while to look carefully at the figures (see chart).

The cost of a Fiat Panda 45 Comfort

	Motability (4½ year agreement)	AID (5 year agreement)
Price of car	£299.77	£3031.72
Deposit required	£216.31	Nil
Repayments	£66.00 (four-weekly)	£80.21 (calendar-monthly)
Total cost of car	£4044.31	£4812.60

It should be borne in mind that the AID price includes car tax, VAT, delivery charges, number plates and petrol, whereas the Motability price only includes car tax and VAT. But the 58 four-weekly repayments of £66 to Motability may well be a more attractive proposition than the 60 monthly repayments of £80.21 to AID, despite the £216.31 deposit.

The extended warranty offered by AID starts on the expiration of the manufacturer's warranty and lasts for 4 years. The car is therefore covered against mechanical breakdown for the whole of the hire purchase period. The claims limit is up to £500 per incident and major component parts of the vehicle will be covered.

The motor insurance arranged by AID, which has been underwritten by Lloyds, is comprehensive. It includes £200 wheel-chair damage caused in a motoring accident; motoring prosecution defence which covers the disabled driver for up to £5000 per incident for legal expenses incurred in the defence to any motoring prosecution; full unin-

sured loss recovery service which ensures compensation for loss of excess, loss of no claims bonus, loss of earnings or wages, provides alternative transport where use of the insured vehicle has been lost, and recovery of compensation for personal injuries sustained in a motoring accident; and a 24-hour legal advisory service which covers both motoring and personal problems.

It is recommended that this cover should be taken out by the purchaser, but any existing no claims bonus that he or she has

approximately £75 and have a £35 excess.

The Emergency Rescue Service, for which there is an annual fee, operates 24 hours a day every day of the year and offers roadside repairs (including assistance with punctures and motorway breakdowns); vehicle recovery (including towing both trailer and caravan); a "get-you-home" service for the driver and up to 4 other passengers, and an emergency driver in the event of sudden illness.

The Service covers any driver of the vehicle and is summoned by telephone. Attendance is guaranteed within 90 minutes of the telephone call and, if there is any delay, a further year's subscription is given free of charge.

The life assurance that AID offers to people buying a car through the company is arranged at no cost to the purchaser.

The benefits of the life assurance will be used to offset any difference in value between the proceeds of the sale of the vehicle and any outstanding hire purchase balance, which ensures that no financial hardship is suffered by the family in the event of the purchaser's death.

If, however, any member of the family wishes to continue

with the purchase of the vehicle, AID can arrange for this once his or her creditworthiness has been established.

Some people experience difficulties in finding a driving instructor who is able or willing to take on a disabled learner. In conjunction with the Driving Instructors' Association, AID has compiled a list of specially trained instructors.

The advent of this company will probably make car-buying easier for some people, particularly those who want a longer repayment period but have found it difficult to find a finance company prepared to be flexible, and those who will find it easier to have the cost of any adaptations included in the hire purchase payments rather than pay for them separately in a lump sum.

It must not be forgotten, however, that this is a commercial organisation. This is not to decry it in any way, merely to put it in perspective.

The overall package appears to have been carefully and imaginatively worked out. But it will take at least a year to evaluate its significance fully.

Leslie Browne
Mobility Officer for RADAR
AID Centre, 182 Brighton Road,
Coulston, Surrey CR3 2NF.

WRITE ANGLES

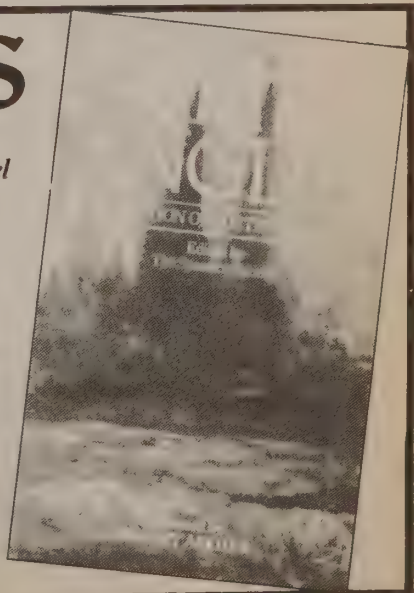
"This selection has created a high standard that will be hard to surpass." **Jeffrey Archer**, bestselling author of *Kane and Abel*

An important and attractive new anthology of poetry and prose, collected from winning entries in The Spastics Society's Literary Contest for people with disabilities since its inception 14 years ago. The book contains work by both adults and children – including several poems by the highly acclaimed author of *'Dam Burst of Dreams'*, Christy Nolan.

"I am sure that the reader will agree that it is an anthology that deserves to stand alongside collections by better known writers." **Lady Wilson**

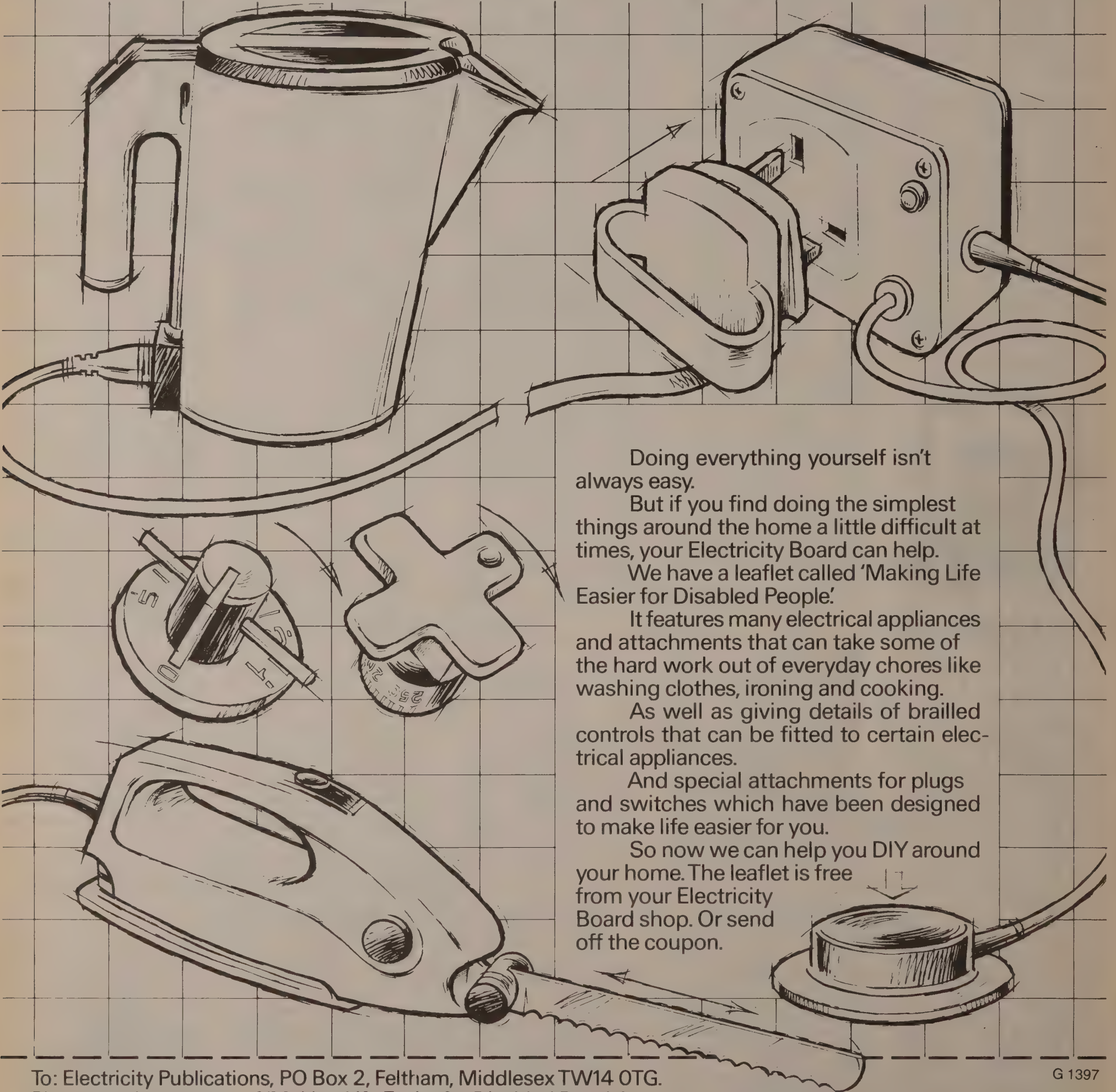
Copies of the book – published by Hodder and Stoughton – can be obtained from the Librarian, the Library Bookshop, The Spastics Society 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ at £3.50 + 50p postage and packing.

All proceeds go to The Spastics Society



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Young blood for Humberside



At the age of only 24, Gillian Smith will be taking over as honorary secretary of the South Humberside Spastics Society in the new year.

She replaces Ken Coulbeck who has been in the post for 27 years.

Gillian completed a degree in Economic and Social History at Hull University in July, but, being disabled, she has had many problems finding a job.

"The Job Centre has sent me on jobs which are impractical - jobs where I have to go visiting people's houses where there are no ramps."

Now she fills her time doing voluntary work. She helps at a South Humberside toy library and sits on the Management Committee of the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre, Scunthorpe.

She is also training to be an advisor at the Welfare Rights Centre - a voluntary body run by the Co-ordinating Council for Disabled People.

"I've known the Coulbecks since I was a child," she says, "and I've wanted to be involved with the society for quite some time."

You lose one, you gain one!

Derek Edwards, who donated the sloop "Sweet Charity" to Churchtown Farm Field Studies Centre in June, has received another boat in return.

Nicholas Barritt, son of Sylvia Barritt, Chairman of Colchester and District Spastics Society, made a pottery viking longboat and presented it to Derek Edwards in appreciation of his generosity to The Spastics Society.

Nicholas, who is 21, attends the Ferriers Barn Day Centre near Colchester where he made the boat.

John Bates, who also goes to "The Barn", made a plinth for the boat.

At the presentation (from left to right) Jennie Woods, who organised the transfer of "Sweet Charity", Nicholas Barritt and Derek Edwards.



LOCAL GROUP NEWS



Edited by Simon Crompton



A worthwhile custom. The Northern Rod and Custom Enthusiasts raised a total of £11,500 over 4 years to buy the Doncaster and District Spastics Society a minibus with lift. From left to right: (back) Robert Pell, Robert Yexley (Vice-Chairman), Olwen Yexley, (front) Tony Murry, Beverley Pell, Sally Yexley.

Southport's high society

Ellerslie Court's new £40,000 recreation centre has been completed.

It is already proving its worth for disabled people, and the Southport and District Spastics Society is encouraging groups of able-bodied people to come along too.

Florence Hudson House, in the grounds of the Society's Ellerslie Court Holiday Home, was officially opened on 1 September.

There is an office, a kitchen and a club room where a group of local disabled people meet regularly.

And a new social club meets in the large meeting room, which has an organ and PA system.

The club provides guests of

the centre and friends of the society with evenings of music, dancing, quizzes and performances by local entertainers.

"It all goes down very, very well," says Margaret Wright, Secretary of the Society.

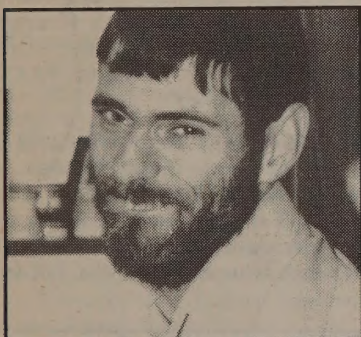
"We want the club to integrate, and hope to get lots of able-bodied people joining in."

Members of the Society are now raising money to buy a raised stage for the social room and a wander-microphone.

Florence Hudson House was built with a £21,000 legacy from a local lady, Florence Hudson, donations from groups in the North West in appreciation of the holidays Ellerslie Court has provided for their members, and local fundraising efforts.

Sefton Newspapers

VIEWPOINT



Ken Smith

At last year's AGM I was struck by the vast array of attitudes towards cp people.

It occurred to me that, having had a cooling off period, it might be of benefit to set down some of my feelings about the public face of The Spastics Society. Although I shall use the AGM as the basis for my remarks, one may view that gathering as the Society in microcosm.

The reception on Friday evening is, in my view, one of the few occasions in the Society's year when "like minded people" can gather and exchange views in an informal setting. Such social occasions are for me, at least, not the easiest means of making conversation.

Theoretically, however, it should be easier to communicate on an equal basis within one of the "bastions of integration". Yet no sooner had I entered the reception area than I was completely thrown off balance by someone remarking, "Now there is a satisfied customer".

It would be false to deny the benefits I have accrued from the Society's expertise during my formative years, but I fail to see why some members of our Soci-

A nasty taste in my mouth

ety should continually make their "products" aware of what it has done for them.

The rest of the evening I felt as if I was being moulded into a Walter Mitty character. At one moment I found myself discussing things of interest and benefit to both the Society and myself on an adult level, and the next having my head metaphorically patted.

Maybe I am becoming less tolerant of what is blandly described as patronage, or I am just becoming more aware. Whichever it is, I am still left with a nasty taste in my mouth.

People connected with the Society, voluntary or professional, ought to know better.

If a Society responds in this way towards those who are more able to cope with such indignity (not that we should have to), it is evident that those who are less able to think through these situations will never wish to be involved in the Society - or with society in general. The only escape route for them is anger or apathy.

Many people who have worked for the Society on a voluntary basis for a long time have had to respond in an unselfish and caring way to offspring with varying degrees of cerebral palsy. It seems to me that it is more difficult for them to have a holistic view of their disabled children and therefore of other disabled people as they are primarily involved in catering to their children's needs.

In my opinion, these people emphasise the need for more training - and not only for parents and caring relatives but for those who have disabilities too.

There is a desperate need for more disabled people to commit their time and energy to the Society's work, but to date it is only the few "bright sparks" with enough guile who have got anywhere in the Society. Having got there they are put on a pedestal or burn themselves out bashing themselves against brick walls.

If we are to have a more "consumer" representative Society, we need to recognise and develop the talents of those who are not parents or "bright sparks".

Recently I attended the AGM of a local group and faced a similar scenario. This group has existed for some 19 years and rather more cp people have participated in it than in other groups around the country. Yet it has been unable to modify its attitude towards those whom it serves.

I sat next to a fairly new member of the Executive Committee who asked me whether I was surprised by the lack of participation of cp people in the group. Reluctantly I had to admit that I was not.

We agreed that it was difficult for outsiders to become involved in such a closely knit organisation, whether they were lay members of the community or the cp. Which begs the question, how can cp people be outsiders?

The only way to avoid this type of situation is by reappraising the structure of our voluntary groups to give more scope to disabled people.

Ken Smith

Computer Administration Officer, North East Region



Guests in the social room.



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Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

This month my column is devoted to feedback from readers. I am always pleased to receive letters about previously published problems as well as those posing new ones.

*Who can help me buy a microcomputer?

Two social workers who work in a hospital wrote recently and asked me to mention their letter which says:

"It seemed a pity that your correspondent, who felt that there was a need for some good emotional support at the time of the birth of a handicapped baby, did not have an opportunity to talk with a medical social worker.

Most maternity and paediatric hospitals now have qualified social workers who are well aware that parents need a great deal of help when faced with an unexpected crisis of this kind.

We can offer privacy and time to both parents at an early stage, just when the tragedy seems hardest to bear, to enable them to express the grief which often has to be kept hidden from the outside world.

We can also offer a continuing contact after mother and baby leave hospital, as well as advising on local assessment resources and voluntary organisations later on when the family have begun to accept the implications of their child's condition.

We feel our role is not always understood and, sadly, this means that people who could find us helpful are not put in touch with us."

Although I fully agree with the points made by these two social workers, it seems that in some hospitals the link-up between new parents and the social worker is rather less than satisfactory.

Unless medical and nursing staff are wholeheartedly convinced of the contribution that a social worker can make, new parents may not realise how valuable this support is.

* August 1984

I would like to emphasise what these social workers say about their role not always being fully understood and I would suggest that positive steps are taken, both locally and on a national scale, to publicize their services more widely.

*The right person at the right time?

This question created a good deal of interest among individuals and organisations.

Firstly, I must apologise for giving the wrong telephone number for Neath Hill Professional Workshop, Milton Keynes. The correct number is 0908-66364 and when phoning please ask for Helen or Jennifer.

Captain John Murray, 72 Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire, tel: 061-962 1772, has offered advice, particularly to people with severe disabilities. He has a daughter at Craig-Y-Parc School who is using a microcomputer and he knows from first-hand of some of the problems.

Captain Murray points out how important it is to sort out exactly what a potential purchaser wants to use the computer for and how the controls should be adapted to suit individual needs.

He will be glad to help with practical advice, either by telephone or letter (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope).

His views were echoed in an item in *The Times* on 1 October about the growing second-hand market for home computers. A new magazine, *Micromart*, has just been launched to add to the many others specialising in this field.

The editor of another, *What Micro?*, is quoted in this article as saying, "The thing that strikes us is the number of people who buy a microcomputer without really knowing what they are going to do with it. They buy one initially because they feel they ought to know about it."

SEQUAL - Special Equipment and Aids for Living - is another organisation which offers assistance to severely disabled people with the selection and purchase

* September 1984



Ria Lips

You may not know...

Since Margaret Morgan retired last year as Controller of the Society's Social Services Division, she has not only been Disability Now's "agony aunt" but has travelled extensively and kept involved with many voluntary organisations.

She is Vice Chairman of SPOD, a member of the Services Committee of ASBAH, and chairman of the management committee of some sheltered accommodation run by the Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults.

She is chairman of the publications sub-committee of Headway, the national head injuries association, and a trustee of the Community Aid Programme, a new charity which is running pilot schemes in London to train mentally handicapped people in domestic skills so that they can work with physically handicapped people in the community.

of special electronic/electrical equipment to aid communication. It is run by severely disabled people who themselves use a variety of electronic equipment.

Two Welfare Officers are available and visits can be made to any disabled person who requires help and information regarding suitable equipment.

SEQUAL also produces a quarterly magazine, *Possibility*, which includes useful current information and sales and wants listings.

Information can be obtained from the Co-ordinator, SEQUAL, 27 Thames House, 140 Battersea Park Road, London SW11. Tel: 01-622 3738

CLASSIFIED

OUTSET, a registered charity promoting innovative employment and training of disabled people, is looking for 2 managers and a training officer for its new projects in Hammersmith and Islington. They will train disabled people in office computer skills and help them find jobs in local service industries. Contact Maria Ball before 9 November. Tel: 01-378 6921

CHILD'S ORTHO-KINETIC WHEEL-CHAIR FOR SALE. Includes bag and tray. In good condition. £100 or nearest offer. Contact Mrs Atkinson, tel: (08894) 4937.

YOUNG MALE PENFRIEND wanted for a woman in her early 30s. Lives in a home for disabled adults and is confined to a wheelchair but does everything for herself. Interests: Country and Western music, going on outings, writing letters. Box No. 115. Disability Now, address on page 16.

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What's On

Courses at Castle Priory

Paget Gorman Sign System is an introductory course for teachers, therapists and care staff. 2-6 January. Tuition £60, residence £72.

The Young Visually Handicapped Child is a course on the early training and education of the visually handicapped child. It is open to all staff working with these children in nurseries, schools and hospitals, particularly those who have little or no experience in the field. 7-10 January. Tuition £50, residence £54.

Child Abuse and Neglect: the Abused Child's Access to the Parent is the 5th course on child abuse. It aims to bring together staff from field and residential social work, the law, medicine and education. 14-16 January. £137 inclusive price for tuition and residence.

For more information about any of these courses write to Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Tel: 0491 37551

Conferences and Leisure

ICAA Conference and Mini Marathon. As part of its first ever publicity and fund-raising week from 4-10 November, the Invalid Children's Aid Association is holding a conference on 5 November called "From School to What?", on the problems facing handicapped young people in education and employment. On 4 November there will be a mini marathon in Battersea Park for able-bodied and handicapped children. Contact Carol Owens (for conference) and the Information Department (for other events) at the ICAA, 126 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SB. Tel: 01-730 9891

Congress '84 - Children and their Rights, organised by the Children's Legal Centre, will be held on 20 November, the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It will propose law and policy reforms to improve the position of children in England and Wales. Contact Robert Ludbrook or Peter Newell, The Children's Legal Centre Ltd, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN. Tel: 01-359 6251

Day Centres for the Younger Physically Disabled is a one-day RADAR conference at the Dalmeny Hotel, South Promenade, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire on 29 November. The fee is £12.45 (including meals). Contact the Conference Officer, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Tel: 01-637 5400 extension 240

Technology and Disability is a day course and exhibition at the Three Crowns Special School in Walsall on 1 December. It will cover a range of technical aids, equipment and techniques developed for physically and multiply disabled people. Fees: professionals £7, voluntary workers and disabled people £6, families £8. For application form and information contact Colin Richardson, Three Crowns School, Skip Lane, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 3NB. Tel: 0922 23119

Rehabilitation Engineering is a short course on 2-5 December, open to para-medical staff involved in the rehabilitation of disabled people. The course, to be held at Stannington Children's Hospital, Northumberland, will cost around £65. Contact E M McGuire, Northern Regional Health Authority, Regional Personnel Division, 52 Clifton Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Tel: (0632) 730197

An International Symposium on Youth and Disability will be held in Jerusalem on 1-5 July, 1985. Held by the Israel Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and sponsored by Rehabilitation International, the themes will be the disabled adolescent, the impact of disability within the family upon the adolescent, and the role of youth voluntary work for disabled people. Details from PO Box 394, Tel Aviv 61003, Israel

STREAMLINER

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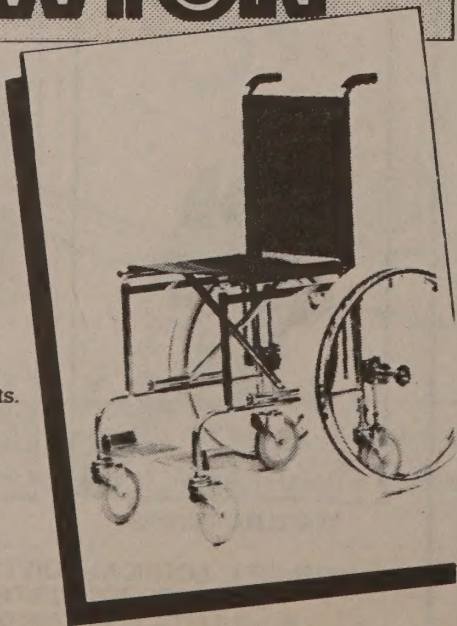
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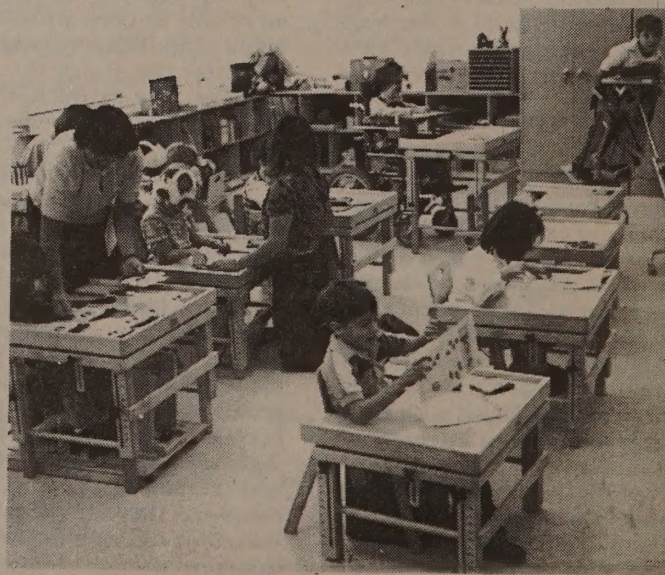
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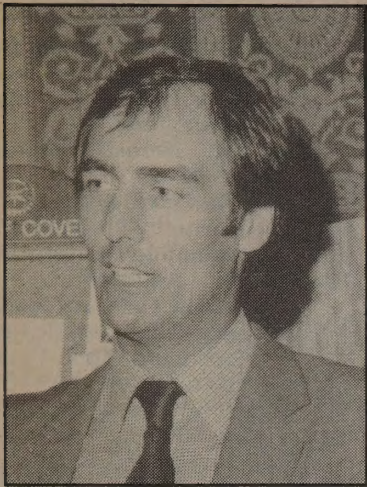


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PEOPLE



Kevin Ashton, 38, is the new manager of the Bedfont Hotel in Clacton. He started on 1 November.

He joined the Society 3 years ago as Deputy Warden of Kyre Park, a post he remained in until February this year when he became acting manager of the centre.

Previously he had been an instructor at the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate.

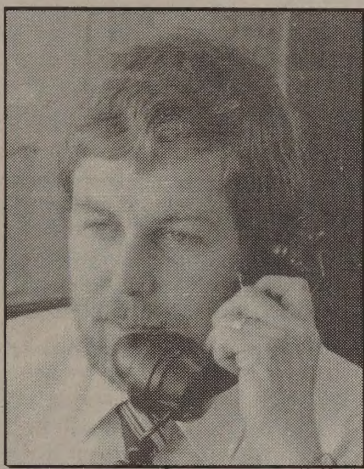
"My aim is to make Bedfont a holiday hotel which has the capacity to cater for disabled people rather than being a disabled people's hotel," he said.

Stuart Wagstaff, 42, is the new manager of Kyre Park, the Society's residential centre at Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

Previously he ran a residential centre for the Coventry LEA which specialised in courses for younger people including those on YTS.

He has been National Director of City Challenge, Outward Bound's urban programme, and he has also been a probation officer.

"My first objective at Kyre Park is to get the appropriate staff appointed", he said. "Once that is done, I want to look at alternative living options for the people who reside here. We must provide more stepping stones into the community."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Writers' Workshop. As part of its programme for the International Year of Youth, The Spastics Society is holding a weekend workshop in January for young people who are interested in writing for the theatre. It will be run by directors and writers from the professional theatre world. If you are interested in participating, contact Alan Durant at The Spastics Society. Tel: 01-636 5020

Incontinence and Stoma Care is a booklet from Oxfordshire Health Authority which presents information on aids and equipment to those professionally concerned with the care of physically disabled people. It costs £5.50 (plus 70p for postage and packing). A guide for health professionals called *the Management of Urinary and Faecal Incontinence and Stomata* comes free. Equipment for the Disabled, Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD. Tel: (0865) 750103

Disabled Christian Fellowship (DCF) has over 7,000 members, a monthly free magazine, faith sharing missions, a number of holidays and a group especially for teenagers. Contact Janet Wiltshire, 50 Clare Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1PJ.

A Guide to Homes for Elderly People has been published by the College of Health. It aims to help people decide where to live as they get older, help families who are worried about elderly parents coping on their own, and help people who need to take immediate action in a crisis. Priced £3 (including postage and packing), it is available from the College of Health, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PT. Tel: 01-980 6263

The Disabled Living Foundation is moving from 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS to new premises at 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU in November/December 1984. The new telephone number is 01-289 6111

The Winged Fellowship Trust, which provides holidays for severely disabled people, has vacancies for holidays until mid-December at their 3 purpose-built centres in Surrey, Essex and Nottingham. If you would like a holiday at short notice, contact the Winged Fellowship Trust, Angel House, Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD. Tel: 01-833 2594

Ombudsman Slide Show. The Commission for Local Administration in England has produced a tape slide introduction to the responsibilities of the local ombudsmen and how these ombudsmen can be used. Available for hire at £13.50 (plus £10 deposit) or to buy at £59.20. Available from BTA, PO Box 52, Harrogate, North Yorks. HG3 1RQ. For more information contact A & C Black (Publishers) Ltd, Tong Hall, Tong, West Yorks BD4 0RR. Tel: (0532) 852330

An Access Guide and Handbook for Disabled Students has been compiled by a team looking into campus facilities at the University of Strathclyde. Available from the Student Advisory Service, Livingstone Tower, 26 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XJ. Tel: 041-552 4400

Volunteers are urgently needed to help expand the Hallphab Club. Funded for a year by the MSC, it runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm Tuesday and Saturday at the Halliwick Centre, Bush Hill Road, Winchmore Hill, Enfield, London N21, and offers, in a purpose-built school many facilities, such as computers, a photography dark room and a woodwork room. Around 50 physically handicapped and able-bodied people go, and more are welcome if extra staff can be found. Contact Sean Moore, Network Projects, Tel: 01-360 2695. Hallphab and Network Projects have produced the *Enfield Disabled Person's Information Book*, 25 pages of information about welfare rights, schools, access, loans, and so on. Free from local libraries or the club.



Above: Under the bar. Maria Brooks crosses the line second in the disabled race in a time of 2 hours 28 minutes – with a little help from her friends! **Right: Up the gantry.** John Cox gets in prime position to start the run for disabled people.



On a winning streak

Disabled people took part in the Windsor Half Marathon

Over 2,000 people huffed and puffed their way up and down the hills of Windsor Great Park in the third Windsor Half Marathon in aid of The Spastics Society on 7 October.

And for the first time there was a special event for disabled people.

Phillip Mills of Windsor Boys School was the first disabled competitor to complete the 13 mile course in 2 hours 22 minutes.

"I was aiming for 3½ hours!" he said after the race.

Phillip ran in the marathon 2 years ago before his legs were paralysed.

"I was an athlete before," he said, "and I feel I've got a sport

back now."

All 6 of the wheelchair competitors finished – Ian Root of Wakes Hall pushed on for 5½ hours.

"There was a lovely atmosphere," said Alysia Hunt, County Organiser for Berkshire, who organised the run.

"I've had many letters from runners saying how much they enjoyed it."

Everyone got a medal, and prizes of engraved goblets and bottles of champagne were awarded to the people who raised over £100 in sponsorship in last year's race.

3 of last year's runners raised over £300 – Archie Gilles, David Burrows and Denis Freedman.



Above: Ready for the off. Philip Mills, this year's winner, and Hugh Slater who came third, get set on the starting line.

Below: Breaking the tape. James Mouat comes in first in the main race in a time of 1 hour 11 minutes.



Revelations of pioneer study

Continued from page 1

"It is assumed that disabled men will work but it is not automatically assumed that disabled women will," says the report.

The result, predictably, is that many disabled women disappear from the labour market. They do not use job centres or see the Disablement Resettlement Officer, and many are not included in the unemployment figures.

Among the remedies suggested are anti-discrimination legislation, special training courses for women and the reorganisation of work.

"This study is just a start in a field which has been overlooked up till now," says Deborah Perry.

More Equal Than Some is available from the Lady Margaret Hall Settlement, 460 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3LX.

£2.25 to funded groups; free to individuals.

Did you have a good holiday?

If so, let us know – in not more than 400 words, with photos, by 5 December.

We are preparing the holiday issue for January.

Care depends on where you live

Lady Hamilton, Chairman of the Disabled Living Foundation since 1969, has urged research trusts to fund studies into regional inequalities of medical care, and also initiate cost-benefit studies in rehabilitation.

She was speaking at Stoneleigh on 11 October, when she received the Harding Award. This is presented every year by RADAR and Action Research for "outstanding work of immediate or future benefit to the disabled".

In her address Lady Hamilton said that disabled people's access to specific medical advice and treatment seems to depend largely on where they live.

DHSS statistics indicate that areas with the highest number of handicapped people often have the least specialised medical manpower to treat rheumatic and neurological diseases.

But the situation is far from clear, she said, and research is needed before any effective plan using public funds attempts to improve the situation.

Lady Hamilton also pointed out that areas of greatest need often have least manning in rehabilitation therapies.

The DHSS might be more sympathetic about allocating money, if there were studies demonstrating cost-effectiveness.

"Disabled people and the voluntary organisations working for them should support the cause of rehabilitation more actively," she said.



Bonnie Langford and Tommy Boyd, presenters of Central TV's Saturday Starship, trying out the soft-play area with children from Calthorpe Special School.

A "miracle" bus for the Midlands

The Midlands Playbus Project got underway on 20 September and was greeted by Gordon Davies, Senior Regional Officer as "a miracle, the first of its kind in England".

"Today we see our dreams come true," he said, "taking play and recreation directly to handicapped children."

The "Magic Carpet" Bus is a converted double-decker with a soft-play area and sand-and-water play area on the lower deck and an open table and floor play area on the top deck.

The bus will be a mobile resource centre mainly for pre-school mentally and physically

handicapped children and their families who would otherwise have no facilities.

But it will also be travelling to schools, clinics, day-care centres and hospitals in the West Midlands.

"The unique thing about this project," says Peter Arnold, project co-ordinator, "is that it has brought 5 charities together, who have all been represented on the steering committee, and all had some financial input."

The charities are The Spastics Society, Dr Barnardo's, The Elfrida Rathbone Society, The Down's Children Association and MENCAP.

Tracy breaks new ground with Manpower Services Commission

22-year-old Tracy Hampson is the first severely disabled person in the North-West to be employed by the Manpower Services Commission in a sheltered work placement. She is being sponsored by The Spastics Society.

It is her first full-time job. On 1 October she started as a clerical assistant at the MSC's Disability Advisory Service at Warrington.

The service aims to influence employers' attitudes and practices towards disabled workers in Cheshire.

Tracy has already been employed part-time there for a year, which is the maximum period the MSC regulations allow for "casual staff".

But employing her in a sheltered work placement

(previously known as sheltered industrial groups) means she enjoys the same pay, terms and conditions as any other employee on her grade.

Tracy left Thomas Delarue School in 1980.

"Since then I've been on 2 Youth Opportunity Programmes and a Community Enterprise Programme," says Tracy.

"I enjoyed the CEP very much - I was researching into the history of Warrington. Then I was unemployed for 15 months, so I did a Higher National Diploma in Business Studies."

"I think that helped me get my present job - all qualifications help, especially if you're disabled."

Tracy, who has athetosis, needs just one aid to work - a guard which fits over the typewriter keys and ensures she touches the right ones.

"I enjoy it a lot," she says. "I'm just pleased to have a permanent job."

★ Drawing on Tracy Hampson's example, Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, is starting his own campaign to encourage local employers to tap the resources of 400 disabled workers in the area.

On 28 September, he sent a letter to major employers in his constituency explaining how the MSC can assist employers who give opportunities to disabled jobseekers.

Norman Edwards



Tracy Hampson

Répondez s'il vous plaît

This month The Spastics Society moves into a new field of fundraising - direct response trading.

Under the trade name Forget-me-not, the Society is launching an artificial Christmas tree complete with lights and decorations, and a traditional-style kitchen scales made of cast iron and brass designed by Robert Welch.

Readers of *Disability Now* are eligible for special price reductions (see the insert).

Full page advertisements will appear in the *Observer* and *Daily Telegraph* colour supplements

and the *Spastics Pool Bulletin*.

"By the end of the year 3½ million people will have had a chance to see the ads," says Stephen Stuart, Senior Marketing and Fund Raising Manager.

"We want to test three things: whether the market is receptive to charity trading, whether Forget-me-not is an effective trade name, and how efficiently our internal system can cope with a volume response."

If all goes well, the Society will be moving into fashion next year with a full-scale advertising campaign in the national press supported by 2 brochure mailings.

Will disabled people co-operate?

Disabled people who wish to start a co-operative are entitled to a share of £100,000 in loans from the newly-formed London Co-operative Enterprise Board. But they are getting less priority than other groups who are disadvantaged in the jobs market.

With a total budget of £1m from the Greater London Enterprise Board, LCo-OpEB is an autonomous body providing financial advice and assistance to co-operatives in London.

It is reserving 55 per cent of its budget for projects from "priority sectors".

15 per cent is reserved for women, 15 per cent for members of ethnic minority communities, 15 per cent for women from ethnic minorities and 10 per cent for "Other" - including gays, elderly people and disabled people.

"We feel that co-operatives should be encouraged to employ disabled people," said Chloe Munro, Chairperson of the Board, "but building on our past experience we felt that groups of women and black people were more likely to want to set up co-operatives."

"We are assuming that most ordinary co-operatives will employ disabled people," she said. "The co-operative form of employment doesn't present itself to us as a solution to the employment problems of disabled people."

"Maybe we are wrong," she said, "and we would certainly

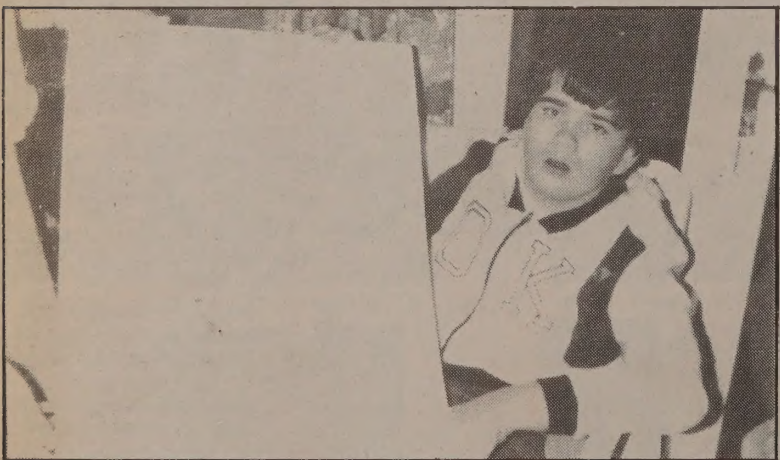
consider changing our policy if we found otherwise."

In the first 6 months of the Board, 2 co-operatives have been set up from the "Other" category. One of them is a printing co-operative in Wembley run by deaf workers with a staff of 10.

Altogether, £87,000 has been loaned to new co-ops in the priority sector, and £162,000 to other worker co-ops. 18 co-ops have been set up, providing a total of 74 jobs.

For more details contact Hilary Brooke. Tel: 01-403 0300 extension 281.

Toby paints a Christmas cracker



Toby Badham with his painting.

Toby Badham from Dene College in Tonbridge has painted a Christmas scene which appears on 5,000 charity Christmas cards.

His "Adoration of the Magi" was chosen by International Christian Relief in a special competition at Dene College.

ICR hope that it will raise £750 in aid of refugees in Zaire, Kenya, Lebanon, Uganda and Portugal.

Toby, who is 17, came to Dene College a year ago, and his main

occupation is painting.

"In fact it's very difficult to get him to do anything else," says one of his teachers, Beth Hoy.

Pat Cerley of ICR was very impressed with Toby's painting.

"He's created a picture which really does depict Christmas for us," she says.

The cards, priced £1.50 for 10 (plus 23p postage and packing for 1 pack), are available from International Christian Relief, PO Box No. 80, 16 St John's Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3NP.

Disability Now

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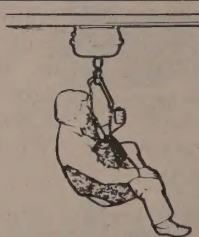
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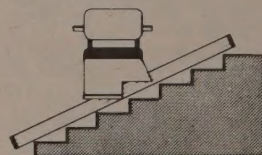
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